

UMASS/AMHERST



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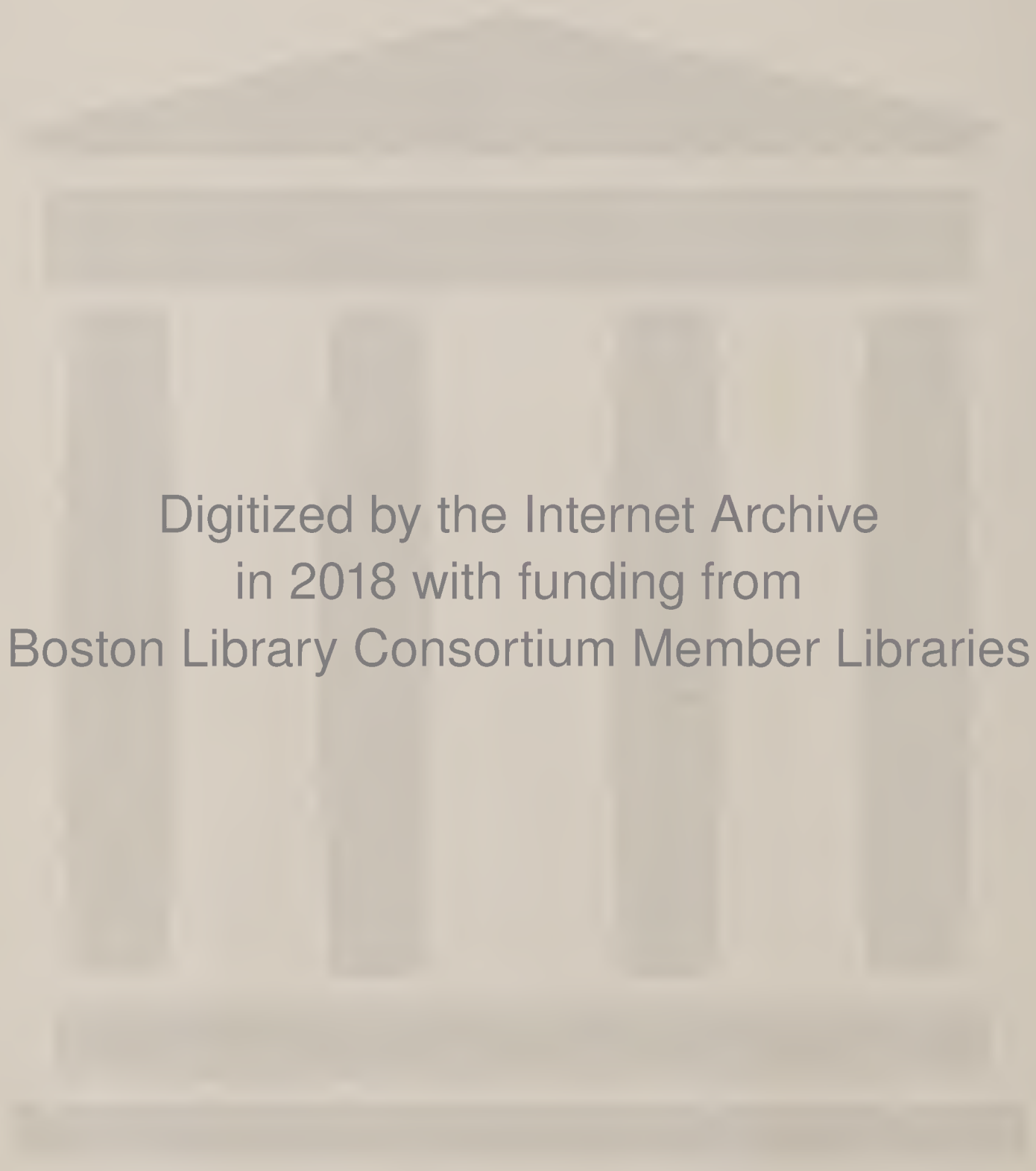


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LEAVE THE LIGHT BURNING



Wm. H. Atkins, 1871-1952

... "His life was a progression to the end, ever growing, ever giving, ever doing and always with what gusto. His devotion to his family, to his community and to his God made him a blessed and shining example for us all."

George Morell 1952

Leave the Light Burning

South Amherst, Massachusetts

W. H. Atkins, author

Marjorie Atkins Elliott
Marjorie Atkins Elliott, editor

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS,
MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN.

1973

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Dedication

*To Alice Tiffany,
who kept the scrap-books
that made this book possible.*

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 73-79866

Preface

The South Amherst of William H. Atkins was a very different village from the Amherst of 1972. While most of the changes have occurred in the 20 years since his death, it was evident that the rapid growth of the University of Massachusetts would have profound and irrevocable effects on Amherst's several villages.

For most of Mr. Atkins' life, South Amherst was a small, relatively stable agricultural community of less than 200 families spread over a third of the town. It had not been changed earlier by the coming of several Irish families at the time of the potato famine in Erin, nor by the influx of many peasant families from Poland during World War I.

In the early 1900's, the installation of trolley lines on West Street, electrification of houses and barns, and replacement of work horses by automobiles, trucks and tractors, provided more effective ways to "farm it." Into the 1930's, the community economy remained chiefly agricultural. A new family generally replaced another and the "place" retained the name of the previous family for identification in village talk. When a new house and barn were built, it became the "new place" of the neighborhood for a decade or more, though it never seemed to command the respect given to the older places. Nor did new people.

Before 1950, everybody knew everyone, and everything about everyone. This common knowledge, together with the difficult struggle to wrest a living from the earth, created a deep, mutual concern among the villagers. William Atkins was a leader in this spirit of concern.

Whenever help was needed, everyone pitched in whether it was the next farm of someone three miles away, your best friend or someone you only tolerated. It was the only form of accident, fire and health insurance. But concern was rooted in more than survival — it was an expression of the spirit and sense of community characteristic of small New England villages.

As late as the 1950's, South Amherst already had become much more residential than agricultural. Its community identity came to the fore at a crowded hearing for a restaurant license for the renovated Sanctuary's Grist Mill in Mill Valley. A younger Bay Road resident was challenged by the panel with "Why, you live three miles from the mill!" His ringing reply spoke for every one of us in this century and the last — "But this is South Amherst, sir!"

Small-farm agriculture became a losing proposition in South Amherst in the 1920's, and '30's. When winterized roads and automobiles opened up the area to people whose work was in neighboring cities, when the 1931 change from "Aggie" to "Massachusetts State" doubled the number of families with that institution, many farms were sold and their houses became the residences of non-farmers. This change in population structure accelerated in the 1940's, when "U Mass" was established in Amherst. A new phase, housing developments, began as the University expanded quickly after World War II.

South Amherst went from rural-agricultural in the 1920's, to rural-residential in the 1940's. Then its growth was entirely suburban. Today urbanism is making spot appearances. The new Hampshire College seems likely to establish a whole new community in southwestern South Amherst.

The most significant change in the last 40 years is in the human population. A family used to move in to live out its life as farmers, and became an integral part of the community. Today in the 200-house development of Orchard Valley, on the Markert place, an old-timer is someone who stays more than three years. There and in other developments, some families do not wish to become part of any community. They are urban, not rural.

Many new South Amherst families are community-minded, but they represent several different groups, each striving for identity in one geographical area. The South Congregational Church, the only one facing the Common, was the natural and chief center of all South Amherst activities. Now it serves this purpose for a decreasing minority (although the worship program is vigorous and membership is increasing).

So many came so fast, speaking with such different voices — that was the tragedy that befell old South Amherst. That community can be seen today only in light of history.

How good of Marjorie Atkins Elliott to "Leave the Light Burning" through the years in this book of selected writings by her father, with pictures collected by her South Amherst friends.

It was a special era. And surely no man was more central to the life of this community for so long, nor more qualified to write it down for others to read.

Philip Truman Ives
West Street
South Amherst
25 October 1972

Acknowledgements

Special mention of those who researched in my stead in the Amherst area include Curator Win Sayer of the Jones Library, Esther Dimock and Barbara Tiffany (in particular for their search for W.H. Atkins' letters to servicemen), Philip Ives who knew the unique or the forgotten commonplace item, Ruth Atkins who helped provide lists of past residents, Jennie Couch and Betty Barton for identifications, and Jim Smith of the Town Hall for maps and town data.

Supplementing a number of Atkins and Elliott snapshots of former days are those located in shoe boxes and bureau drawers and mailed to Madison for the book. (Picture credits are listed in the Appendix.) To my cousin by marriage, Herbert McChesney, (now of Ludlow), who found himself a map maker, photographer and then agent for this book, I am most indebted.

In Madison, Wisconsin, (or more specifically, Monona), I owe special thanks to the editor Patrick Keeffe, and publisher Don Huibregtse of the Community Herald who gave me their advice (which I did not always take), their assistance (which I always did), and free use of office equipment I could not have afforded.

I would not forget Professor Robert Gard of the University, a friend of writers; nor my typist, Phyllis Miller, who stood by me to the end. Finally, thanks to my husband who encouraged and aided me in this compilation from the afternoon when Alice Tiffany directed him to the two scrapbooks, twenty years on the shelf!

About the Editor



Marjorie Atkins Elliott
Monona, Wisconsin 1971

Our first confrontation with Marge Elliott was after we purchased Monona's struggling suburban weekly and began the arduous task of building it . . . she called to suggest this or that!

She's been calling since . . . suggesting sensible things . . . fighting for her beliefs; being the area's conscience.

Marge's advent coincided with World War I and she's fought since then to preserve what she likes and oppose what she dislikes.

South Amherst is her birthplace and "home." She earned a B.A. at Wheaton College (rural Norton, Mass.) and an M.A. from Cornell, Ithaca.

A year at Crossnore, a Smoky Mountain hospital, and two years of teaching high school in Georgia, preceded the Master's and meeting Irv, a PhD candidate in animal reproduction.

They married in '41, produced Kirk in 1944, and spent a year in Greece with Irv striving to replenish cattle populations devastated by the Germans.

In 1946 to Raleigh, N.C., where Irv taught at State College and Karen arrived; then to Storrs, Ct. where Irv headed the department of animal industries and Kathy was born. Marge busied herself establishing a cooperative kindergarten which still functions.

Back to North Carolina in 1952 where American Breeders' Service employed Irv. In 1954 to Monona so Irv could head frozen semen research at ABS headquarters.

Marge began freelancing for children's magazines that year and stopped when her children grew her out of material.

Then it was refresher courses from University of Wisconsin Extension and teaching at Wisconsin High School and Madison Area Technical College.

She fiddled (the violin) in college and until 1959 with the Madison Symphony. Arthritis stopped that, but not her vitality for causes.

Environmentally concerned (before it became everybody's bag) she lost a battle to save a 150 year old burr oak from a Monona street project. That battle whet a desire that's never slacked, and helped her become a Monona council member six years later.

She's written current commentary for us since Feb. 1970 and has a free rein.

Marge is an historian, traveler, idea-finder, naturalist, writer, spiced tea drinker, Thoreau, Franck and Frost fan, crossword nut, figure skating buff, bird watcher, flower arranger, family fun booster, pecan pie baker and eater, dandelion wine maker, conversationalist, amateur poet (some prizes) instigator of community projects, apple-daisy-antique aficionado and loves to watch snow fall. And she's our friend.

It's like her to bring a vase of posies to the office in early spring. She loves life and her struggles with this volume have not quelled her enthusiasm. We're thankful for that!

Don Huibregtse, Publisher
The Community Herald

1973

Foreword

Professor Robert Gard advised me to write the Foreword after the book was together. The implication was that then I would know what to say, but it is difficult to "sum up" articles about one's home town, or to encapsulate the author, one's father.

This book developed beyond my original intention of publishing in book form Dad's stories about South Amherst. I thought first of adding pictures of the houses and places mentioned in his articles; then, of also including those that pictured the tenor of life in South Amherst prior to 1952. More and more pictures arrived by mail, some coming too late for inclusion. With background material by other writers, the appendix grew to be one-fifth the size of the book! Pictures are not indexed but among the more than 270 there will be some which will bring back memories of another day in the lovely valley of South Amherst. Perhaps they will deepen our desire to save what is best of the past.

More time might have been spent on the project, but I wanted to publish this book for the enjoyment of old timers who were an active part of the community recorded by my father. An editor should also be located near his topic — not 1,000 miles distant! Another editor might prepare a supplementary book, including writings by Kathleen King Hayes, Phil Ives, Dorothy Van Wert and others, correcting errors, adding more illustrations. And soon.

What of the author? Blessed with robust health, Dad was an active, busy man. He was involved in church, village and town life, often as a leader, in addition to the management of a large fruit farm. He cared about people. He took on responsibilities. These two facets assured participation in worthwhile ventures. During World War II he did what he could for South Amherst youth by sending them monthly letters about their village. Only six copies of over 30 are available — they appear at the end of the articles.

The main facts of his life are given in the Appendix. Life in the hills of West Granville was hard. Everyone worked. The products of a small stony farm, from a flock of sheep, hens, cheese from the buttery, and bushels of nuts, berries or cowslip greens gathered by the children in season supplemented the income from sales of ladders on occasional trips to the river towns. In 1886 George Atkins moved his family to Westfield, and then to Amherst to be near high schools for his three children. Mary became a teacher; Mabel, a missionary to Indians in Saluda, N.C., where she died in her early twenties; William carried on his father's interest in establishing a fruit orchard, and did his part to pay off the mortgage. In 1905 the new house was built — of pine from the woods on the farm. He married Naomi Howard of Belchertown, in 1911. They had three children: Howard, myself, and William C. In time twelve grandchildren followed.

At age 78 he retired from public service and management of his large farm. He became village

correspondent for the Amherst Journal. His own background (and Mother's) of over 65 years in South Amherst offered an added dimension to the notice of a house warming, a fire, or the passing of an older citizen. Then one week he wrote of Brainard Lyman's retirement as rural mail carrier. From then on, a story about the early school houses, or mills, or roads often appeared along with the local news. He and Mother researched the data at the County Court house, papers, diaries, and talked with old timers (fifteen over 80 yrs. of age were living in 1950). Auction stories also appeared. Had he lived longer, we would doubtless have had accounts of the harvest of ice from the pond on Depot Road where children skated and the muskrats built their homes. He would have told of the early lamplighters of South Amherst's gas street lights; he would have recalled Lawrence Swamp as he knew it.

As for his personality, if you knew him you have your own memory. Some wrote of how Dad was the first to drive into the dooryard (with a basket of fruit) when they moved into South Amherst; another of how he set out a shipment of 100 apple trees for his sick neighbor; another remembered his warm welcomes at the monthly church suppers; another recalled an ice cream cone given a penniless youngster at the picnic at Aldrich Lake. It would seem he was aware of the stranger, the one left out, the one in need.

Something of his character comes through his writings, but not his strong voice, nor the sound of his laughter, that never hurt. He was a big man, in more ways than one . . . When he came into a room, it felt different.

I remember him as one who loved life, and people . . . He liked to see the heifers gambol as they were let out into spring pasture; he liked to see children at play. He liked to go blueberrying, down at "Morell's woods," and then to eat a bowl of blueberries and milk that evening. He liked good food, but a good visit even more. He enjoyed reading aloud.

He knew so much, as men of his generation did. He knew the importance of a good foundation, and how to lay it, for a road, a business or a life. He knew how to build a bridge, or a load of hay; to shingle a roof or tend an orchard. He could mend a toy, tie a knot, take out a sliver so that it didn't hurt (He didn't think much of a man without a jack knife!) He was able to say something worth listening to, on his feet or not, but he could keep his silence. He was a man of the land, who could read the weather from the clouds, and the soil from the grass. He liked a gentle rain, but he didn't fret over the gales over which he had no control. He was humble without knowing his greatness, and genuinely thankful for the blessings of this life.

It is hoped that the readers of this book will feel how special this valley and village of South Amherst has been, and can be, and will, like my father, "leave the light burning" for those who follow after.

March 1973
Marjorie Atkins Elliott
Monona, Wisconsin

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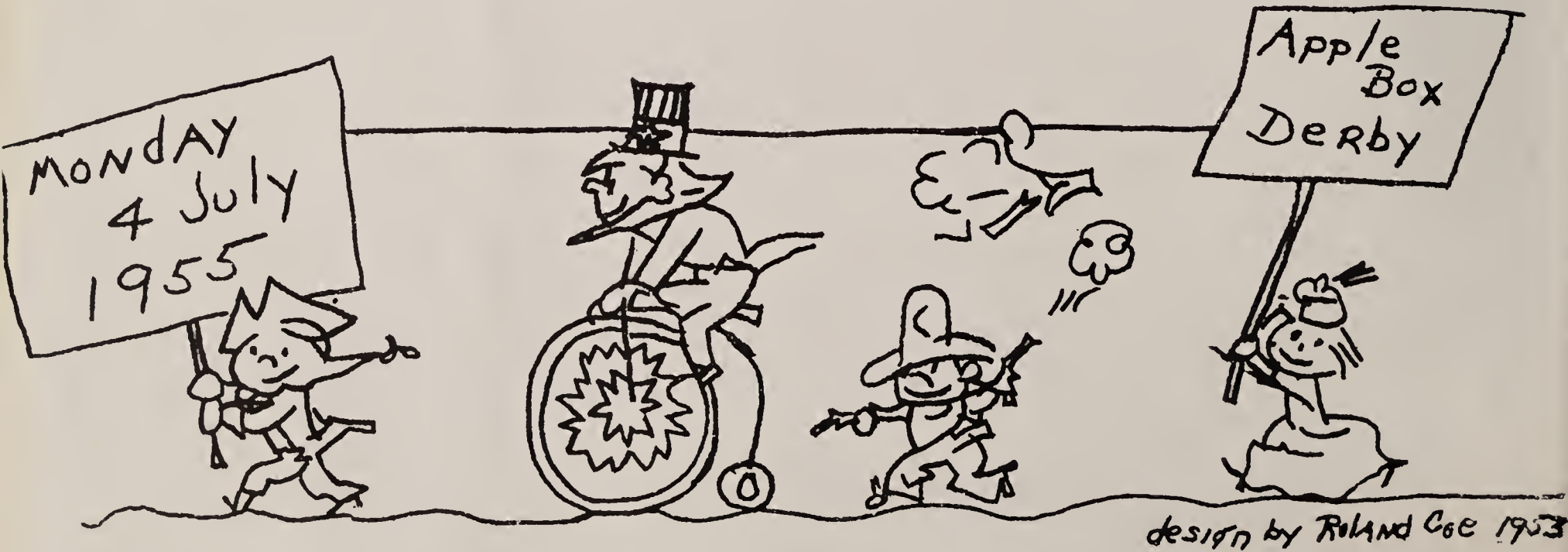
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by Roland Coe, well known artist, of Middle Street South Amherst



Town Hall, Amherst, Mass.

(Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson)

HISTORY OF AMHERST

In the last year we have become much interested in the historical data of Amherst, more especially that of South Amherst. In our study we have been greatly assisted by information gathered from the history of Amherst up to 1895 compiled and edited by Carpenter and Morehouse. It is of interest that in 1890 Mr. Morehouse lived in South Amherst on Shays Street in the house now owned and occupied by Mr. George Page

There is no way in which we can repay these men for their foresight and labors but by picking up the thread of their story and bringing it forward to 1950, another half century. If this could be done once in each fifty years the accuracy of the life of Amherst in her various fields of endeavor would be assured.

We have thought much data could be brought together by public spirited citizens. There are men who have retired from the college, as well as other citizens, who are eminently fitted to gather and bring into chronological form the historical facts of the past fifty years. An editor would be necessary to compile this information, the expense of which would need to be provided for in some way.

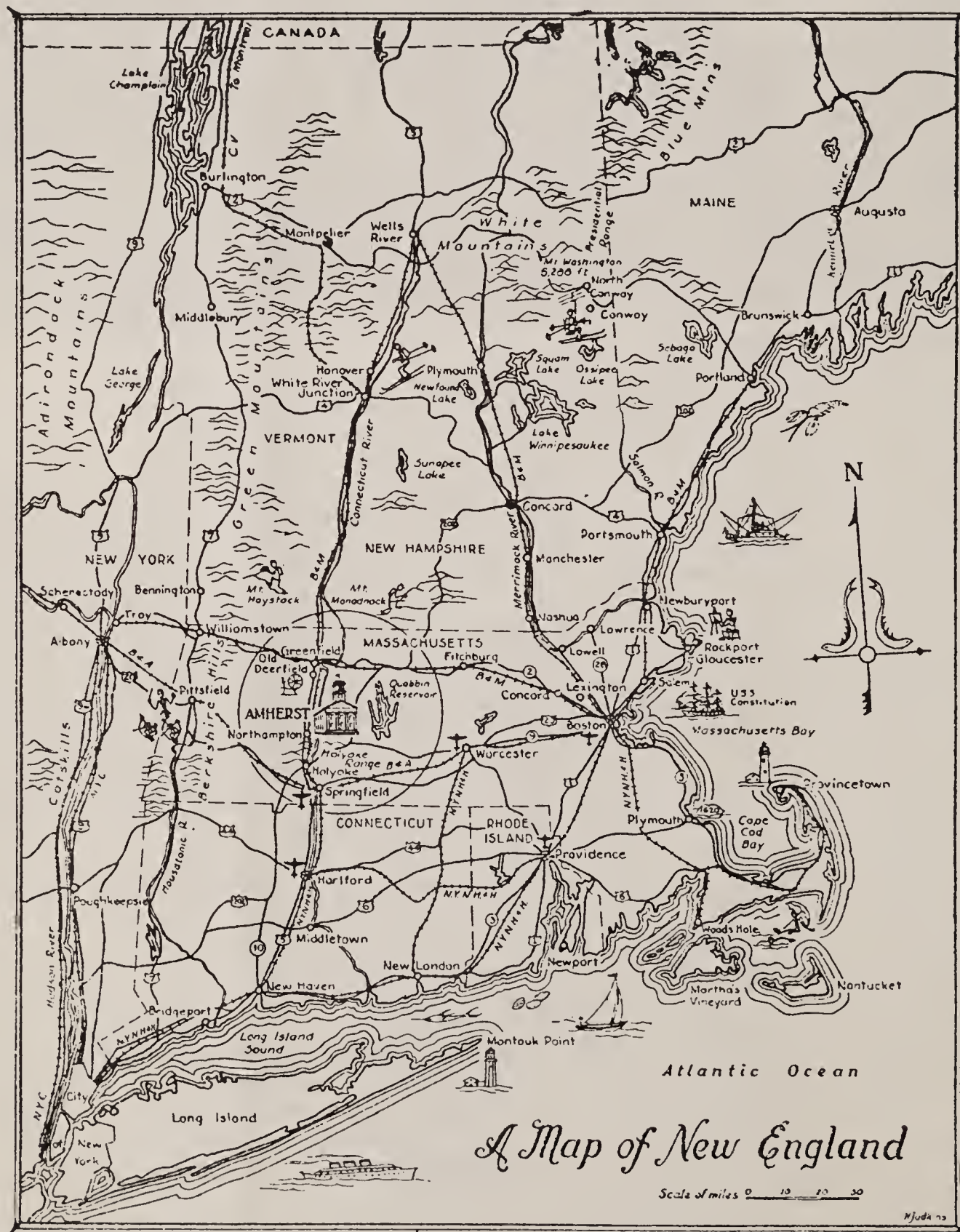
It would be very fitting if the Historical Society felt that they could sponsor this project of the town of the past fifty years into book form. *There is no better memorial one can leave to posterity than a book that presents the history of the past.* Such a book is of inestimable worth and a treasure to coming generations.

We urge that serious thought be given to these suggestions that something tangible may take form and bring to fruition this much desired and worthwhile project.

Sincerely

John H. Allen

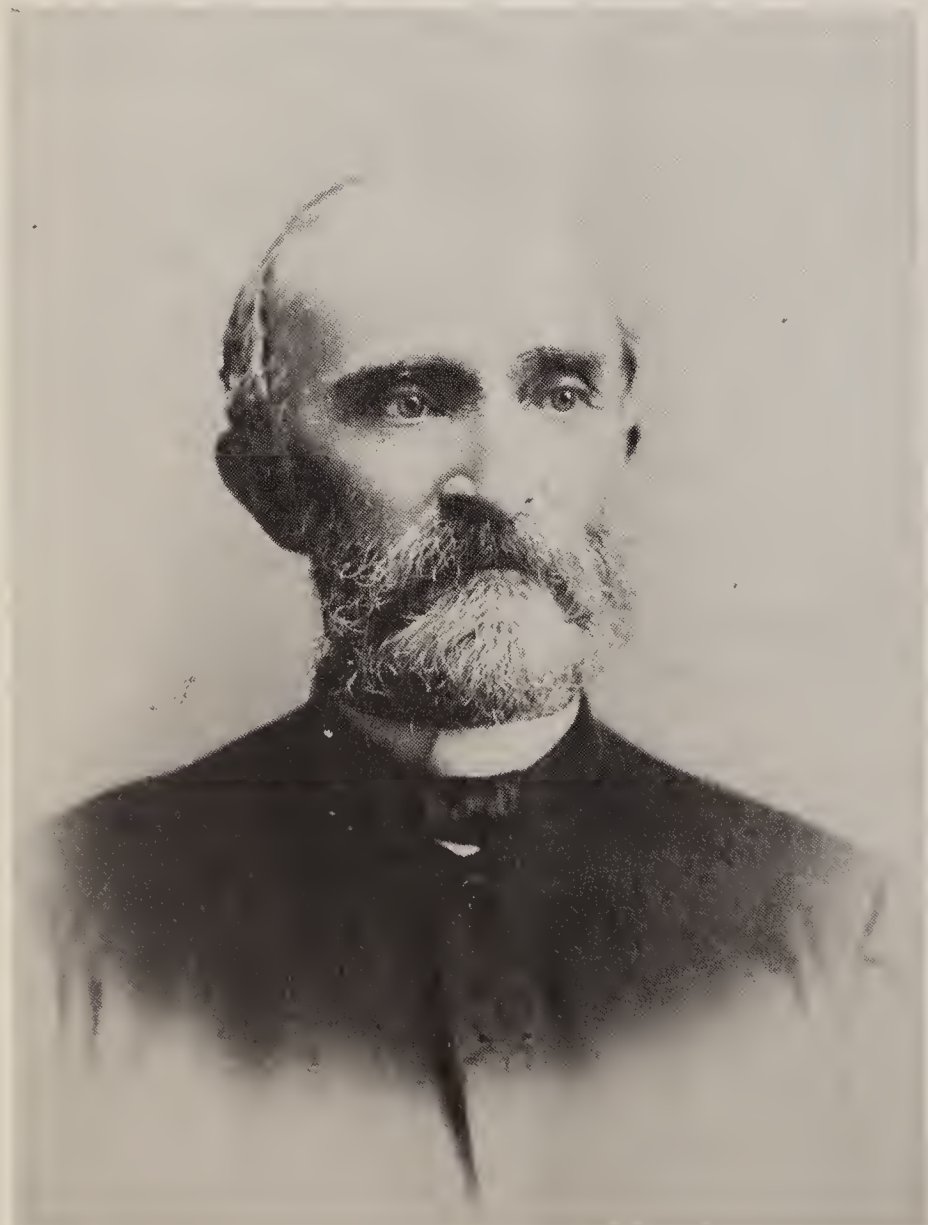
February 3, 1950



Published by the
Amherst Chamber of Commerce



Cross walks by the pond on Mass. Aggie Campus. 1914. (E.P.R.)



Portraits from yesterday: Left, Emma (Mrs. Will Sanderson - longtime teachers of the primary room in Sunday School in later years; Lena Pomeroy, who with her sister Mary was a strong support in the village, and George Hannum, teacher in the So. District school, and farmer. He celebrated his golden wedding anniversary with his wife at his home (Tufts) in 1906. These and others like them, gave generously to the life of South Amherst. (All from Herbert McChesney)

SOUTH AMHERST

November 5, 1948



Clifford and Alice Tiffany

(A.T.)

A house warming party of seventy or more made a surprise call on Mr. and Mrs. Clifford A. Tiffany on Thursday evening Oct. 28. This was in celebration of their occupancy of the new home that they have been renovating the past summer. The house is well over 100 years old; three fire places with a Dutch oven built by the side of the one in the living room, is of special interest. The architectural beauty of the interior of the house has been preserved as far as possible.

Among the gifts presented were a set of old andirons whose age fitted well into the fireplace of early construction. Refreshments were served and after a social hour the guests departed wishing Mr. and Mrs. Tiffany many happy years in their new home.

The house well over 100 years old was formerly occupied by Arthur Cecil Jewett who died last year at the age of 95. Mr. Jewett was never married and kept bachelor hall for the last 50 years which rather goes to prove that woman's care is not necessary to man's longevity.



Arthur Cecil Jewett, 1852-1947. (A.T.)

Fire Destroys Shea Barn (Origin of name for Potwine Rd. given)

December 17, 1948

The barn of John Shea on Potwine Lane was discovered to be ablaze by Louis Cote a neighbor at 9:45 A.M. Friday, December 10. Cote ran to the Shea home, some two hundred yards away, and notified Mrs. Shea who called the fire department. At the same time the fire was noticed at the Stiles filling station and an alarm was rung in from there. The fire department responded and by direction of the acting chiefs George Cavanaugh and George Taylor, two lines of hose were laid from West Street to the Shea residence some distance away as there is no water for a hydrant on Potwine Lane.

The house was connected with the barn by auto and general storage buildings. The fire, cause unknown, originated in the barn, which was completely enveloped in flames before notice was received at the fire department. However, on their arrival the firemen were able to check the fire as it reached the ell of the house and the fire was not allowed to enter the upright section. There were no livestock in the barn or hay. A tobacco crop had been removed a few days previous to the fire. Some small tools were lost. The household goods were all removed from the house by the neighbors who hurried to the scene to give assistance in any way they might.

Mr. and Mrs. Shea, their three children and three nieces and nephews have occupied the house for about a year. They have owned the property for the past fifteen years, but have resided in Clyde, New York State.

Mr. Wilbur Shumway, a man eighty-seven years old, congratulated the firemen on saving the house. He was born there in 1862 and his mother in 1830. Her maiden name was Mary Potwine. The Lane extending from West St. to Middle St. nearly a mile derived its name "Potwine" from the ownership of the land through which it ran or abutted. Webster says a lane is a narrow path or street this is the reason it is called "lane" as its surveyed width is 33 ft. instead of most streets 49½ ft.

South Amherst Barn Destroyed By Fire



—Amherst Journal Photo

Shown above are the smoking ruins of the John H. Shea barn on Potwine Lane, South Amherst, destroyed by fire last Friday morning. Quick work by the Amherst fire department saved the Shea dwelling, which was attached to the barn by a storage shed.



An autumn scene, Brainard making a mail delivery at Chas. M. Corder's west of Miazga's on Bay Road. Fall, 1956. Vondell photo (Brainard Lyman)

MAIL CARRIER TELLS EXPERIENCES

January 7, 1949

South Amherst Grange held its final meeting of the year Dec. 27. F. Brainard Lyman, a charter member who has served this district the past 28 years as rural delivery mail carrier, was invited by the Master of the Grange, Homer Cowles, to tell of his experiences as mail carrier. Mr. Lyman took the civil service examination in 1919 and was appointed to the position in 1920. Since he began his work of rural mail carrier there have been six extensions to his route. Mr. Lyman recalled that when he first took the route in 1920 there were 164 calls to make and that now he has 300. During the years he has carried mail, the route has been extended from 28 miles to a distance of 35 miles. He began his government service in the spring of 1920 when the roads were muddy and even his Model T Ford could not make the route. He needed to resort to horse and sleigh in the winter and horse and buggy in the spring as roads were not plowed for snow in the winter and not hardened with macadam for the auto. Today, with the clearing of the snow on the roadways in the winter and the asphaltting of the roads, he no longer needs to resort to the horse for transportation.

It is of interest here to go back in memory to 1904 when the rural route was established in South Amherst. H.A. Chapman, now living at 178 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, took the survey of the route in 1904, gathering the names and addresses of those to be served and the length of the route which proved to be twenty-five and three-tenths miles. The post office was in the old brick house facing the village green in South Amherst at that time, but some years later the users of this office were transferred to the rural route and the office closed. Up to this time mails were received and dispatched by rail in both the Mass. Central (3) and Central Vermont railroads. Mr. Chapman tells us that the pay allotted to him for carrying the mail was \$600 per year with the privilege of carrying parcels and selling of newspapers. This income averaged about \$20 per month. Later this privilege was taken away and the pay was raised to \$720 per year, the net returns being about \$120 less than under the first contract.

John McDonald followed Mr. Chapman and in 1906 Frank T. Ives of West Street took the route over and maintained it for six years until 1912. Following the government contract with Mr. Ives, Mr. William Hauff substituted a few months



Frank Ives on rural mail route, 1908 (P.I.)

until a new contract was signed with Mr. Earl Howlett, who carried the mail well into the year 1919 when Henry Johnson substituted a few months until a new contract was made with Mr. Lyman in 1920. Up to the time Mr. Earl Howlett took over the route the horse was used as the motive power to convey the mail carrier and mail from post to post. Sometimes in the period of Mr. Howlett's transportation of mail the auto came to the front and supplanted the horse a part of the year. When depending on all-horse energy for the work it was necessary to keep two horses and change enroute as in the old stage coach days. When Mr. Ives took the route the pay was \$720 per year. When he gave it up in 1912 it was \$1000 a year.

Mail has gone out from the Amherst office every day since the route was opened. The first time three men who worked under contract, Chapman, McDonald and Ives, are still living. Mr. Howlett died some few years ago. There have been many substitutes in the past 45 years in emergencies and vacations, and changes in men, horses and automobiles, in order that the mail should go through. This spring will see twenty-nine years back of Mr. Lyman, of devotion to both his government and his patronage. That Kind Providence may safeguard him for many years to come is the hope of his many friends.



Brainard Lyman's house, that burned in 1933, later remodeled. (B.L.)

HOUSES PASSED ON SOUTH EAST ST. GOING SOUTH ON MAIL ROUTE R.R.D. No. 1.



The R.S. Schoonmaker house west side of South East street where the village orchestra met and rehearsed in late 1920's (R.S.)



A baseball game north of Schoonmaker's. Cook's house and hen houses in left foreground. Truman Smith home on right. Cliff Shumway's house across from Cook's (R.C.S.)



West side of So. East St. The early "Dana" house; later owners, Harold Wentworth, Wm. C. Atkins. (H.M.)



The (W. Lyman, A. Dickinson) Lila Tiffany house. Herb McChesney gets an assist in relocating the Miller-McChesney mailbox. "Dana" barns in R. background.



Looking south through rose arbor to Naomi Atkins. Beyond, the (Vondell) Tidlund house, 1941.



Former Cecil Jewett house, across from the (Wentworth, Berglund) Howard Atkins house, now residence of Mrs. Clifford Tiffany. (Herbert McChesney)



The W.H. Atkins residence, built in 1905 on site of former J.C. Hammond house (Circa 1932)



Kirk E. and cousin Robert McChesney ride trikes down so. driveway. Ben Judd hen houses, ice cream shop, tobacco barn and house across the road.

Mrs. Fred C. Adams

January 28, 1949

Mrs. Olive Maria Adams, 90, wife of Fred C. Adams, died at her home on South East St., Jan. 22, following an illness of several weeks. Born in Ludlow, daughter of Collis and Marie Barton Lombard, she was educated in the Ludlow schools, and married Eugene McKimmie who died in Amherst. On March 23, 1898, she was married to Mr. Adams and they have lived in their present home the past fifty years. Last year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Adams was a member of the South Congregational Church and for twenty years cared for the communion table and the emblems served at the communion services. She was a charter member of the Grange and an honorary member of the Thursday Club. The funeral was held at the Church. Among the many friends attending the funeral were several cousins, including Mr. and Mrs. Edward Barton of Suffield, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Robbins of Braintree, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Thierin Adams of Attleboro, Mass. and Mrs. Clifford Adams; also close friends of the family, including Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Brewer and Mrs. Butterworth of Orange. There were many floral tributes to the memory of Mrs. Adams. Rev. Louis Toppan officiated at the funeral. In his remarks he dwelt upon the important place the church played in Mrs. Adams' thought and the activity of her life. Burial was in the family lot in South Amherst cemetery. The bearers were Mr. Herbert Hutchings, Mr. George Bastow, Mr. Earle Wales and Mr. Howard Atkins.



A wintry view across the Common, approximately from the Adams' house, showing the Munson Memorial Library, church, and MacLeod house. (c. 1934)(H.M.)



A snow storm coats the trees, 1951, South East St., between Atkins' and Judd's. (E.D.)

SOUTH CHURCH ACCEPTS TOPPAN RESIGNATION, ELECTS HERMAN MARKERT AS MODERATOR

(January 28, 1949)

The annual meeting of the South Congregational Church was held on Tuesday evening, January 11. At this time, Rev. Louis Toppan tendered his resignation to take effect March 1 to accept a call to the Congregational Church at Stafford Springs, Conn.

Mr. Toppan gave a report of the church activities in the past year and its spiritual growth, not only in membership but in its search for the deeper spiritual meanings of life. He said, "I wish that words were adequate to express what you people have meant to us during the seven years of our ministry with you. You have spoken the encouraging word and at times the sorely needed but much harder word of constructive criticism. You have shared with us, in kindly understanding, the whole range of human experience from the height of joy to the depth of sorrow. You have forgiven our sins of commission and omission. You have worked and played with us and prayed for us. As a church group you have so lived and challenged us to better living and leadership that you deserve the title, 'The builder of ministers'."

Mr. Toppan made special reference to the long period of twenty years that F.B. Lyman with Mrs. Lyman as assistant, had been treasurer. He said, "Few people can appreciate the complications of their devoted labor in a task which has become increasingly complex through the years. We honor them for their loyal devotion in fulfilling their respective offices."

After Mr. Toppan's report, Herman C. Markert, moderator, called for the reports of the various organizations and committees of the church. The treasurer reported that a budget of \$5,305 for the past year had been met in full and \$150 cash was on hand. The sum of \$1213 was turned over to the missionary budget of \$1248.

The deacons recommended the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Toppan, which was voted by the church, and waiver of the 60-day notice at the request of Mr. Toppan, so that he might take up his work in Stafford Springs at the beginning of the Lenten season. The deacons also recommended that the church elect a pastoral committee of eight members. This was approved and a committee was named consisting of Mrs. Roland Coe, Mrs. Scott Harvey, Mrs. F.B. Lyman, Mrs. Henry Stoughton, Howard Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. George Jung, N. James Schoonmaker, and Mr. Harold Wentworth.

The following officers for the year 1949 were elected: Moderator, Herman Markert; Clerk, Mrs. A.P. Stedman, Jr.; Treasurer, Kenneth Ives; Trustee, Norman MacLeod; Deacon, Howard Atkins; Deaconess, Mrs. F.B. Lyman; Board of Religious Education (members at large), Mrs. Hollis Moore, Mrs. Chauncey Simmons; Church Council, (members at large), Mrs. Archer French, Arthur Towson; Missionary Committee, Mrs. William C. Atkins; Music Committee, Mrs. Richard March, Miss Barbara Tiffany, N. James Schoonmaker, Winthrop Judkins, Scott Harvey; Home Department, Miss Lena Pomeroy, superintendent, Mrs. W.H. Atkins, Mrs. Roland Coe, Mrs. Gilbert Jung, Mrs. R. S. Schoonmaker, Mrs. Mathias Berglund; Flower Committee, Miss Mary Pomeroy, chairman, Mrs. F.L. Gage, Mrs. James Tufts, Mrs. Herbert Hutchings, Sr., Mrs. George Page, Miss Miriam Richards, Mrs. Fay Montague; Publicity Committee, Louis Toppan, chairman, Mrs. Howard Atkins, Mrs. Kenneth Thayer, Roland Coe, W. H. Atkins, Miss Florence Hayward; Cradle Roll, Mrs. Truman Smith, superintendent; Ushers Committee, Harold Wentworth, chairman; Church Attendance Committee, F.B. Lyman; Representative Layman, W.C. Atkins; Nominating Committee, Mrs. Helen Stedman, chairman, Mrs. Winthrop Judkins, Herbert Hutchings, Jr.; Delegate to Amherst Council of Churches, Mrs. R.S. Schoonmaker; Auditor, Scott Harvey.



C.H. Thayer Sells Lot
Located on Wide Highway

February 18, 1949

Mr. Chas. Hiram Thayer, assistant professor of agronomy at the University of Massachusetts, has sold to Mrs. Margaret Craig of College St. an attractive building site surveyed from his farm located on South East St. The site of the lot is at the top of a rolling elevation of the road near Mr. Thayer's home. The highway on which this lot is located provides for the unusual width of five rods for a roadway while most of the survey of South East Street calls for the usual width of three rods. It is of interest to find in our history that in 1703 a section of land 40 rods wide was laid out for highway purposes, extending from the Bay Road northerly toward Leverett. Within this tract of land is our South East Street as well as South Amherst Common. Tradition has it that at one time the traveled way circled the hill and ledge on the Thayer farm upon which this building lot is located instead of going over the elevation as at present. This could easily have been done and the traveler stayed within the original 40 rods of public way.



A southwest view from the Common showing the (Merrick) Dwight house, (Barton's(?) barn and shed in the distance), the scales in front of the brick store, the watering tub for horses and early cars. Circa 1910. (Richard Shurbert)



The "Town Farm" today (H.M.)

February 25, 1949

The passing of Mr. William Chaffe, 89, owner of the old Town Farm, brings to our attention some interesting facts of history of Amherst. We find here the record of the town's purchase of the farm on June 1, 1838, to make a home for those in need of public care. In 1869 a new house was built and on Jan. 1, 1882, these buildings were burned to the ground by the hand of an inmate. Church services were in progress in the nearby church when the alarm came to the assembly that the town buildings were ablaze. New buildings were erected that year. The present house is of that date but fire visited the farm again in 1941 burning the barn which was then under the ownership of Mr. Chaffe. Albert and Frank Chaffe, his sons, rebuilt the barn the same year and will now continue to operate the farm.

Wedding picture, Mr. and Mrs. Chaffee former owners of the Town Farm. Parents of Mrs. D. Hawthorne. (G.H.)



AT THE MUNSON'S HOME in South Amherst, taken in the early 1900's, this picture shows Parnell Munson and Mary Jordan, on the porch, with another guest. Mrs. Munson is in the foreground of the picture. Other families represented in the picture: Dickinson, Morell and Shaw of Fiddler's Green, Dickinson, Read, Dana and Haywood of South East St., Dwight of Middle St., Pomeroy of Pomeroy Lane, Miller and Merrick of West St., Hartwell, Goodale and Taylor of Bay Road, Holley and Boynton of Mill Valley. (Clara Dwight)

Toppans Honored at Farewell Party March 4, 1949

Sunday morning services were conducted by Rev. Louis Toppan completing seven years of ministration to the people of South Amherst. Included as parts of the service was the uniting of new members to the church, the baptism of children, and church communion. Next Sunday Mr. Toppan will be preaching in his new parish at the Stafford Springs Congregational Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Toppan came to South Amherst in 1942 from New Sharon, Maine where he was then preaching. He received his B.A. at the University of Massachusetts after coming to Amherst. During his pastorate of seven years the church membership has substantially increased. The church auditorium has been restored as far as possible to its original colonial beauty. Mr. Toppan has given active support to all the social and welfare organizations of the community. He has been head of the Department of Town and Country Life of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. He is a director and with Mrs. Toppan they have given freely of themselves to the youth at the Camp Anderson summer camp. Mr. Toppan as chairman of the Amherst Church Council has ever been ready to assist neighboring churches. Mr. and Mrs. Toppan by their warm friendship and efficient leadership have woven their life into that of the people of South Amherst to an unusual degree. The reception tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Toppan Sunday night at the church vestry, by its number testified to their popularity as both Catholics and Protestants joined in the honors.

As a token of good will and esteem there was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Toppan a goodly sum of silver dollars, a F.M. Zenith cabinet radio-victrola, providing for long playing records; also by the Cossatec Club two books of records were added to the gifts.

Mr. Toppan and family left on Wednesday for their new home at 89 E. Main St., Stafford Springs, Conn.

Rev. Arnold Kenseth, chaplain at the University of Massachusetts will conduct the Sunday services at the South Congregational Church the next three weeks.

NEW OWNERS FOR PART OF GAGE (MUNSON) FARM,

March 11, 1949

Mrs. F.L. Gage has sold a section of her farm located across the road from the home. This property of about 36 acres was subdivided into three plots. The westerly plot was acquired by Mr. E.J. Poor, and the easterly section, adjoining Shay St., was divided into two parts. The southerly section was deeded to Mr. Wesley Blair of Wyoming, Ohio, and the northerly part to his brother Roy. Both parcels are bounded on the east by Shay St.

The land is a part of the same farm owned in 1880 by Mr. Parnell Munson who later in life willed \$30,000 to the town of Amherst for a library building. This was accomplished in 1930 by the building of the library in South Amherst known as the Munson Memorial Library building. On the section of the farm Mr. Wesley Blair has bought there is a reservoir some 150 feet across that is fed by a stream gushing out of the side of the hill. Mr. Munson built this reservoir and erected a windmill for power to force water up the hill to the buildings across the road.

Subsequent owner of this property was Mr. Walter Howland, treasurer of Amherst College. The windmill, subject to the winds both in velocity and timing, proved unreliable. To gain a sure supply of water Mr. Howland contracted with a firm to drill a well by the buildings. This was driven down into the solid rock some 200 feet without reaching moisture. The venture then had to be abandoned. The mystery of just where an abundant and continuous supply of water can come from at the foot of the hill whose formation is solid rock is still open to debate.

In 1911 pipes were laid by this property to South Amherst bringing water from the Amherst water system which has eliminated further trouble as to a continuous supply of water.

Following Mr. Howland's ownership was that of Mr. St. John Smith of New York who married the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howland. it was at the time of the St. John Smith ownership that their daughter disappeared from Smith College. An intensive search was made locally and throughout the states for her with no immediate results. Some weeks later the tragedy was in part explained by the finding of Miss Smith's body in the Connecticut River.

Mrs. F.L. Gage of Enfield, Mass. was the next owner of the farm, in about the year of 1930. The "Ledge," on the part Mr. Wesley Blair acquired, is an outcropping of rock that geologists say is of the original rock formation of the earth, without seam or crack.

This has been the point of vantage that Fourth of July fireworks have been displayed and the coming together for Easter Sunrise services, until the one at Pelham Hill has filled the need of this early morning observance of the Easter Season. There are many desirable building sites in South Amherst due to the contour of the land, there being a ridge extending from Amherst proper through the center of South Amherst to the Holyoke range. One of the most desirable is this plot with its ledge and view of the mountains to the East and South, thence looking over the Hadley meadows into the very heart of Northampton.



View of the Holyoke Range, probably across old stone walls along Shays Street. (R.C.S.)

July 1, 1949

Mrs. Mary Jane Cope, Born in 1854, mother of Mrs. John Kentfield, observed her 95th birthday June 17. Mrs. Cope came to South Amherst in 1927 with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Kentfield. Mrs. Cope was born in Barnesville, Ohio, where she was married to Mr. Cope. After the death of her husband in 1914 she came east and later made her home with her daughter and son-in-law. On June 5 she welcomed a few days' visit from her relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sears and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sears of Ohio, who promised to come back to her 100th birthday. Although Mrs. Cope is the oldest person in South Amherst, her general health is fairly good. She feels she might be eligible for the Boston Post gold-headed cane if not classified out on sex; however, she is very content to be able to move about from room to room with a cane that her husband cut from the Ohio forests many years ago. A span of life of the extent of Mrs. Cope's could be traced back over the years from 1854 to 1759 to a date seventeen years before the Revolutionary War.

SOUTH AMHERST COMMUNITY PICNIC

July 1, 1949

Notice of a community picnic on the "village green" at South Amherst earlier known as "Fiddler's Green", next week on July 4 verifies last week's statement that the picnic season had arrived. This hardly tallies with the seasonal picnics that up to recently have been celebrated in our community. The old diaries show that without exception they were held in July or August or not until the haying was done, that none might be unable to go because of farm work. However, now hardly a newspaper we read but there are notices of community, church, club and class picnics. Webster says a "picnic is a short excursion into the country by a pleasure party". However this may be for those already in the country, we do not know but we will at least absorb the "pleasure party" of the definition. Webster also says "they carry their own provisions". First in importance were sandwiches, next, cake and cucumber pickles. Picnic lemonade made up in five gallon milk cans and dipped out with a ladle became the delectable drink for both boys and girls. Supply supposed to be inexhaustible, but if it begins to run short, more water is slyly added.

Community picnics are of long standing in South Amherst — sponsored by the church until 1920 when the Grange was organized and the picnic as well as the Christmas tree were jointly sponsored. In the last sixty years the yearly coming together of the community both old and young for a picnic has not been omitted or lost its attraction. Among the designated places that we have the records of that the gatherings have been held are North and South Belchertown Ponds, Forge Pond, Granby, Orient Springs, Pelham, Aldrich Lake, Granby, Look Park, and when the restriction of the use of gasoline took place the picnickers assembled on our own village green. To go back to a diary record of July 30, 1890 we quote, "picnic at Belchertown Pond, we had a pleasant time" which accords with Webster's definition of "pleasure party."

Forge Pond over the Harris Mountain Road in those early days was another rendezvous for picnics. The four horse tally-ho owned by Loomis Merrick of West Street, now stored in the basement of the Jones Library was brought into service and lent dignity as well as usefulness to the occasion. This trip was over the hot, sandy, hilly mountain road which precluded more than a walk most of the way. It was the day before bathing suits were in use and if the boys cared for swimming they retired by boat to a safe distance.

When the Holyoke Street Railway line was extended to the Orient Springs in West Pelham, we again quote, "Picnic Aug. 27, 1903, at West Pelham, seventy-five present"; and again "Aug. 27, 1914 Picnic at the Orient". The Springs were a popular resort for some time until Aldrich Lake, Granby, was opened to the public. Transportation here was by auto and rail.



Aldrich Lake in 1972 (H.M.)



Shown above, upper photo, Bill Shumway of South Amherst and Mrs. Marjorie (Atkins) Elliott of Storrs, Conn., followed by a file of youngsters in paper tricorns. depict the origin of the term "Fiddlers' Green" as applied to the South Amherst common, at the community picnic July 4th.

And we find a diary record of Aug. 17, 1917 "Hot, picnic at Aldrich Lake. Had a good time, all went in bathing". By this time bathing suits were in common use, the girls having a skirt attached to the body garment, that they might be fully and properly clothed when coming out of the water. Aldrich Lake held predominance over all others until Look Park was opened in 1930, at which time the picnickers passed by the Aldrich Lake attractions for the Park.

The diary of July 28, 1931 reads "Picnic at Look Park, 160 present". Again July 24, 1941 "90°. Picnic at Look Park. About 120 present". We need not comment upon bathing suits at this time except to say the floating skirt had been abandoned and various abbreviated costumes were in vogue. When the restriction of gasoline came in 1942, the village green was chosen, thereby eliminating transportation and the diary record reads: "Picnic on the common, July 4, 1942". The picnic facilities of the library building and church on the borders of the green as well as the extensive lawn shaded by the elms of a hundred years standing has now become the accredited home of the community picnic.

July 8, 1949

The Community Picnic of 200 July 4 on the Village Green was a success in every way. Thanks are due to the merchants in town and all others who contributed liberally toward the celebration. Committee in charge were Herbert Hutchings, Jr., chairman, assisted by George Jung, Richard March, Richard Berglund and Radie Bunn. The program began at 10

a.m. with the parade. This was led off by David Goodrich, supposed to be leading a Jersey calf that most of the time was leading David. Four ponies in line with riders decorated for the day, Lucille Nanartons riding a calico one, Ray Owen a black, David Wentworth a gray and Mary Wentworth a short-legged blocky little animal that looked equal to carrying another passenger. Ronnie Collins came along with his white rabbits representing the live stock unless we include Mr. and Mrs. George Jung's three little girls personifying the bunny rabbits and we might include the float carrying a decorated load of youngsters labeled "Uncle Sam's Children". The "prairie schooner" manned by the four Schoonmaker boys was of interest.

The winners in the parade were: Ronnie Collins, David Goodrich, Eleanor, Jean and Ruth Jung, David, Paul, Billy and Peter Schoonmaker, Uncle Sam's Children, Dannie French.

There were a number of others in the line of March suitably dressed for the occasion and carrying flags and other emblems of the day. Around the Green twice they went, much to the enjoyment of their admiring friends. The Legion band stopped as they passed through the village at about eleven o'clock, as of last year, giving the people an enjoyable half hour of music which was much appreciated.

At the noon hour tables, chairs and benches were brought from the church and Munson Building and placed in the shade of the elms, where they were soon surrounded by picnickers. Abundance of watermelon, coffee, and lemonade were freely distributed to the merry throng. Soon after the lunch the announcer took the megaphone and told how the well in the Green was dug to supply a bucket brigade in case of a conflagration, how, soon after the Revolution, a military company which maneuvered on this Green, was organized and in the War of 1812 a contingent of the company, then numbering 66 men, was ordered to Boston for her defense. However, the enemy didn't land and we quote, "they came back without seeing a Red Coat".



McChesney float, July 4., 1949. David in black cap behind flag, Eric Wolters behind David, Martha, Kirk E., Charles standing, Robert on his left. "Home Market" sign on Martha's box. (H.M.)

Next upon the green came Mr. Wilbur Shumway, Jr., and Mrs. Marjorie Elliott in costume with their fiddle playing "Yankee Doodle" and followed by a dozen decorated youngsters with their three cornered hats. Just how the Green came to be called "Fiddler's Green" in the early part of the last century history does not reveal. We do know that there was a tavern on a near corner where the dance to the fiddler's music might have led to the name, or the fiddle might have been used to give the step to military training on the Green, hence came the name "Fiddler's Green".

Rodney Gray caught the greased pig, Wesley Wentworth, Jr. and Susan Bunn made good traveling time with three legs. The sack race was taken by Anna Felderman and Shirley Hubbard for the girls and Phil Kershlis and Wesley Wentworth, Jr., for the boys.



On a July 4th, lined up for the parade, left to right: Judy Adair, Kathy and Karen E. in Honolulu dress, Danny, Dale and Celia Atkins. About 1954.



Lemonade and watermelon, served from the truck. 1951 4th of July picnic at noon (E.D.)

The Bubble Gum Blowing contest was won by Susan Bunn and Peter Ashcraft. Winners of other events were as follows:
 Egg Tossing contest, Donald Jacque.
 Bicycle; third, Gordie Wentworth.
 Baseball Throwing, older boys, first, J. Williams; second, Bud Lombard; third, Bobby Holt: Younger boys, first, Peter Coe; second, Herbert; third, Phil French.
 Rolling Pin Throwing, first, Mrs. Marjorie Elliott; second, Mrs. James Schoonmaker; third, Mrs. Elaine Nanartonis.
 Horse Shoe Pitching, James Schoonmaker and Arnold Kenseth.
 A good ball game by older youth ended the day's festivities.

An entry in the July 4th parade 1926 in Belchertown. (Blanche Hawley)

(July 8, 1949)

The South Amherst people were glad to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Kenseth and two children into the parsonage July 1. Mr. Kenseth is to take up his new duties as pastor of South Church, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. Louis Toppan last March. In anticipation of having a resident pastor the trustees have had the parsonage redecorated and new plumbing equipment installed in the kitchen.



Elaine and Geoffrey Kenseth, prize winners in July 4th parade, 1952. (E.D.)

SOUTH AMHERST BUILDINGS DARE THUNDER ROARS AND LIGHTNING FLASHES WITH SHINING SAFETY RODS

(July 22, 1949)

We never enjoy thunder showers, but the one that came Wednesday evening, July 20, was very welcome to the parched earth with all vegetation struggling to find enough moisture to maintain itself from the burning rays of the sun. It had seemed so hopeless that rain would ever come that we hardly dared to mention water! However, it is not our purpose to talk about water but the fire hazards of lightning.

The thunder shower of the 13th with its sharp crackling reports of thunder and the flashing bolt of lightning that must have struck its blow on some tree or building, brought to mind the devastation of past years. The burning of the town farm in 1883 was from a bolt of lightning. We witnessed our own barn burning in 1890; the Dickinson Bros. barn in 1898, and the H.C. Markert barn on West Street in 1921.

So far as we can learn none of these buildings were rodded as a preventive from burning caused by lightning. The barns erected to replace the old, on the Harold Wentworth (formerly Dickinson Bros.), H.C. Markert and W.H. Atkins now have lightning rods installed on the buildings. The new barn of the latter was struck in 1923 by lightning which melted the tip of the point to the cable but no damage. The Church building has a heavy iron lightning rod that probably saved the church from burning a few years ago when it was struck and did slight damage. This rod has been 100% useful to 4th of July pranksters to escape from the belfry by other ways than the front door.

We do not have the report when the rod on the church was installed, but it probably dates back as far as the Civil War days, when there must have been good deal of interest in the protecting device for we read from the history of Amherst, quote: "In 1866 lightning rods were placed on all of the school buildings, the cost \$213.75." However, there were many who disbelieved in any protection furnished from the device. We can well remember as a boy the arguments for and against the rod as a conductor of lightning. The copper cable has greatly improved the efficiency of the rod and there are but few disbelievers today although we see three quarters of our buildings still unprotected from lightning. Even the school building has backslid to be one of them.

The insurance companies allow a 5% reduction on one's insurance bill where the buildings have approved lightning protection. Some lightning rod companies guarantee up to \$5000 any loss caused by lightning. A 5% deduction on fire insurance means that 5% or one in 20 fires are caused by lightning.

In taking a census of S. Amherst we find there have been in the last 60 years 30 fires where the building or buildings have been consumed by fire. Three of these were caused by lightning which means 10% of them were destroyed by lightning. There are now 40 properties covered with lightning rods out of a total of 175 within S. Amherst. When the "thunder roars and the lightning flashes" one feels just a little easier to know his buildings are protected from a possible fire caused by lightning.

The scene of the \$45,000 fire which destroyed a group of farm buildings at the Fort Hill farm on South East Street on Tuesday, July 1 at 1:45 p.m. The left hand photo shows the main barn and silos swept with flame. (Amherst Journal)



MRS. HUTCHINGS, 91, OLDEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MEMBER DIES

(August 12, 1949)

Mrs. J.E. Hutchings, 91, widow of the late John E. Hutchings, died at the Kane Nursing Home August 8, after a long illness. Mrs. Hutchings' maiden name was Ellen May Smith and she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, who at one time owned what is now known as the Nicholas Rock farm bordering the Central Mass. R.R. Her father, James Smith came from Hadley out of one of the original family settlers by that name. Her mother, Mary Barlet Smith, was also from one of the older Hadley families. Mrs. Hutchings, who was born April 18, 1858, had four children, a boy and girl, dying in their infancy, and two living sons, Frank of Lynn, Mass., and Herbert of Amherst. Mrs. Hutchings had two brothers and one sister, the late Mrs. Wilbur Shumway, William H. Smith, one of the assessors of the town of Amherst for many years who died within a recent date and Frank who passed on several years ago.

Mrs. Hutchings was married to J.E. Hutchings of S. Amherst on a birthday anniversary, April 18, 1881 and came to live at that date on the Hutchings farm which is now occupied by their son, Herbert.

Mrs. Hutchings leaves not only her two sons, Frank and Herbert, but three grandchildren, John of Hartford, Robert of Birmingham, Alabama, and Herbert, Jr., of Amherst. Three great-grandchildren, Diana of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hutchings; Alan of Mr. and Mrs. John Hutchings, and Wayne of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hutchings. Mrs. Hutchings always lived in S. Amherst. She was a well informed woman. Her memory carried her back to the days that are far gone by to most of us. She could recall the days when the first survey of the Boston and Maine R.R. was made through her father's farm just below the barn, and years before this as a child when the train on the Central Vermont R.R. was draped in mourning due to the death of President Lincoln and could be seen from her home as it passed at the rear of her father's farm. Mrs. Hutchings was the oldest one of the South Congregational Church becoming a member in the early 70's. She was allied with all of the church and community interests in her kind and thoughtful ways. We find her name on the Thursday Club membership as a charter and honorary member. She was one whose span of life took her back before the Civil War days and covered a great change in the development and progress of the people. So ends the life of one of our town's oldest and highly esteemed members.

The funeral services were held at the Congregational Church on Wednesday, August 10, at 1 p.m. Rev. Arnold Kenseth officiated. Burial was in South Amherst Cemetery. The bearers were: John Kentfield, Howard Atkins, Brainard Lyman, Winfred Cowles, Winfred Shumway and Harold Wentworth.



Hops in fruit —
presumably Hop Brook
was named for this once
abundant plant in
Lawrence Swamp. (M.
Thomas)

DWIGHT HISTORY TRACED; ORIGIN OF LOG TOWN IS A PUZZLE TO RESIDENTS

(August 19, 1949)

The ladies of Dwight served on Wednesday, Aug. 18 at the chapel, a mid-summer public supper, featuring sweet corn of the season, the receipts of the same to aid in the painting of the chapel. The name Dwight goes back to the last century when the depot on the C.V.R.R. was known as Dwight Station and the Post Office as Dwight. When the Boston and the Maine R.R. was constructed in 1888, Pansy Park became the name of its passenger station at Dwight in recognition of the development of the growth and sale of pansy seeds as well as plants by the late L.W. Goodell who specialized in the propagation of this popular flower. The Amherst rural mail route 2 covers this district with mail often addressed sometimes to Dwight and other times to Pansy Park.



SECTION OF PANSY PARK AND RESIDENCE OF ASARIEL GOODELL

From Clifton Johnson's *Pictoresque Hampshire*, pub. 1890.

Long before the name of Dwight or Pansy Park, the district was known as Log Town. Even now the older generation often uses the name in designating the district. The road out of South Amherst going East, now known as Depot Road, was called Log Town Road. Just what brought about the name Log Town, history does not reveal. We do know there is and probably was a log sawing mill on the Gulf Road brook, which is the main supply of Hop Brook.

Your correspondent has twice been brought to task for offering a solution of the name Hop, for Hop Brook, so we hesitate to suggest one for Log Town. Wilbur O. Shumway wrote us, (quote): "When I was a boy I could go down to Hop Brook and gather a bushel of hops in no time, anywhere from the Hulst farm to South Amherst."

From California, George Morell, an old time resident, writes, "When I was a youngster I was told that Hop Brook got its name from the wild hops that grew along its banks . . ." We hope someone will solve the Log Town puzzle.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF POMEROY LANE IS TRACED BACK TO 1703

(August 26, 1949)

The transfer of the land and buildings of Mrs. Helen Smith of Pomeroy Lane to Mr. Gordon Nylon was recorded in the Hampshire County record of deeds last week. This house built in recent years is one of several others that are the nucleus for a street of homes on Pomeroy Lane.

Webster's definition of a lane is a "narrow street" and although Pomeroy is some wider than the Potwine and Mill Lanes, the original name Lane has changed to street. These three lanes, history tells us, were provided to make connection links between West and East Streets which were laid out in 1703.

Bay Path, referred to as Brookfield Road in **Morehouse History of Amherst**, was then traveled as a direct route from Northampton to Massachusetts Bay, this road made the connection by the mountain between the West and East Streets. Shay Street was probably planned for later, running diagonally across the land enclosed in the rectangle toward Amherst center from the South village.

Pomeroy Lane probably derived its name from David Pomeroy who owned land bordering on the South line of the highway — its complete length from the South common to West Street, a distance of 4/5's of a mile.



Frank Pomeroy on the south porch with his son, Reuben. (R.P.)

The Pomeroy homestead, for many years the only house on the lane. Carriage house in foreground. (Reuben Pomeroy)



The first house built bordering on this highway was that of the late F.L. Pomeroy in 1874. The next house was built in 1912 by W.R. Brown and is now owned and occupied by A.B. Eldridge. The next, by E.M. Switzer at the corner of Pomeroy and Middle Street. This was followed by Frank E. Koeber, in 1936, now owned by Edward E. Poor and occupied by Nicolas Roco. In 1940, Miss Miriam Richards had a residence built and, at about the same time, Mr. C.W. Hayes followed by erecting the first one on the South side of the road. Following closely to these is the one referred to in the first of this article. Two other houses followed this in 1947, nearly opposite the Pomeroy home; that of William Russell, Jr., and Miss Shirley Noel. In the fall of 1948, that of Herbert Hutchings, Jr.

The Lane is a straight course from West Street to East Street and does not divide to the right or to the left. One may stand at the West end of the street and view the church steeple at its easterly end, nearly a mile away.

The westerly section of the road has the history of having a clay foundation that became a bottomless mire in the spring of the year; when the auto came, assistance was often asked of the late W.H. Smith, then Town Assessor who lived nearly, to use his horses to assist the auto driver in the rescue of his car that was fast sinking from view.

Set off by maples, the commodious house of Will H. Smith whose team of horses often extracted travellers from the clay mud of Pomerov Lane prior to its reconstruction in 1920. The Wentworths, Berglunds, were later owners. West St., Pomeroy Lane. 1972 (H.M.)



Free labor had been assembled one time and another to coat over the clay with sand or gravel, but to no avail until, in 1920, the town appropriated \$1000 to be expended on this section of the road. Under road Superintendent Henry L. Ufford, stone and stone walls were secured and deposited on the road one foot deep and twelve feet wide. This resulted in a firm foundation. In 1929, the town, with the aid of the county and state funds, built a hard top macadam its entire length at a cost of \$10,000.

In about 1915, H.C. Barton, then abuter of the south side of Pomeroy Lane, set brown ash shade trees the entire length of his property abutting the street, of which there are now living over fifty. W.H. Smith, by setting the elm against his property, completed the row the entire length of the street. Another line of trees of a specie of the popular were set by W.R. Brown on the north side, when he acquired a section of land abutting that side of the highway. These men of vision did much to add to the beauty and attractiveness of the street.

Town water for the householder, hydrants for fire protection and electric lights came to benefit the street not far from 1915. In the good old days of the electric cars, a shelter station was built at the corner of Pomeroy and West Street for the convenience of high school students and others while waiting for car transportation which cars were on an hourly schedule.

Plum Brook crosses Pomeroy Lane in a northerly direction. A stream from the South Mountain is its main source. It enters Fort River crossing West Street just north of the Apple Storage. Plum Brook is a minor trout fishing stream but one whose banks are well traveled in the spring by the boys with high hopes of bringing home several bouncing fish at the end of the day, to brag about before their envious friends. It now has a swan house and nursery buildings and pond for the swans carved from the brook for their accommodation, provided for by E. W. Poor, the owner. This can be seen located by or within the brook at the northerly side of the road. Here the swan sail about in their regal majesty without apparent motion, a sight of attractive beauty for one's eye to behold.

Stumps being uprooted and removed from the fields either side of the road have been witnessed by those now living, and stories told by the past generation testify that at one time forests lined a greater portion of either side of the road, even that a pine grove clothed the westerly slope of Meeting House Hill.



Facing due west, greeting the traveler up Pomeroy, the 1825 South Congregational Church. 1972. (H.M.)

This is the story of the present day as well as historical notes of interest of Pomeroy Lane. Beginning at West Street, and running a straight course deviating neither to the right or to the left up "Meeting House Hill" to the village green coming into full view of the church that has received the traveler, so inclined, within its doors for the past 125 years.

HISTORY OF OLD HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL FAIR RECALLED; OPERATED FROM 1846 UNTIL 1917

(September 9, 1949)

As the days of vacation of the summer season are past, so the days of the County Fair and Cattle Show are at hand.

Began in 1846

The Three County Fair in Northampton is now filling the want that the old Hampshire Agricultural Fair supplied in Amherst for 70 years and which has been closed for business 30 years. This Fair and Cattle Show had its beginning in 1846 and was held on the common at the center. History tells us there were 144 yoke of oxen and 40 horses, besides other live stock at the show. This was followed by fairs in the years of 1847 and 1848! In the latter year the state first gave money for premiums on the hall exhibits as well as the live stock.

On Oct. 31, 1849, there was a display, larger than any previous, of 260 yoke of oxen and of this number fifty-two came from South Amherst.

Just why S. Amherst was singled out is not known but undoubtedly because of the large display from one district, as when Leverett was said to have 69 yoke and Belchertown 100. When we consider that two miles an hour is a fair rate of travel for oxen to move on the road, we wonder at the enterprise and patience of the farmer in getting his cattle to the show. Every large farmer in S. Amherst must have furnished one pair. It certainly was the day that oxen were the main supply of draft power on the farm.

Governor Attended Fair

Membership of the society in 1851 reached 640 and attendance to 4 or 5,000. In 1855 Governor Gardner and Lieut. Gov. Brown graced the occasion and gave the address of the day at the Congregational Church, which is now College Hall. One hundred dinner guests were served at the Amherst House. Nothing happened to mar the prosperity of the fair until 1859, when it was necessary for the Association to have grounds of their own and a division arose as to where they should be located. However, eventually agreement was reached and grounds were bought at East Amherst, bordering on Belchertown Road. This location was not approved by some and alienated the support of many who had been active in former years. Membership was now 1064, but gradually dropped until, at its closing in 1917, there were not more than 100.

Sporadic efforts were made to develop interest and support in the Fair. Parades representing "Ye Olden Times" as well as the "present" were organized at the Amherst Center and marched to the Fair Grounds hoping to draw by their magnetism a number on to the show.

Closed in 1917

The Hall exhibits were well sustained throughout this period, but oxen disappeared entirely. Live stock such as cows, sheep, swine and poultry were fewer in number. Horse racing became the predominant feature for which sport some did not care. Attendance and membership gradually fell. 1917 was the last year in which the fair was held; this was in the time of World War I. That year the grounds inside of the race track were plowed and planted to beans as a war effort for food production. The finances of the association were getting so deep into the red that at a special meeting on Jan. 2, 1918, it was thought best to solicit funds, settle the indebtedness and dissolve the organization.

On Feb. 20, 1918 the Secretary of State approved of this action and so the Hampshire Agricultural Fair Association passed into history after seventy years of activity. It might be of interest to state here that the first Agricultural Fair in the U.S. was held in Pittsfield in 1807.

That the word "Cattle Show" should cling to the name "Fair" is not to be wondered at when we have found that the early "fairs" were truly "Cattle Shows" and known by that



4-H FAMILY HONORED—Mr. and Mrs. 4-H Club of Hampshire County and family are shown above receiving the first family 4-H Club award ever made in this county, at Bowditch Lodge, U. of M., last night. Making the presentation, left, is William A. Munson of the state 4-H office, handing the certificate to Harold T. Wentworth of South Amherst. Mrs. Wentworth is standing beside her husband. In front, left to right, are Mary, 11, David, 12, Gordon, 15, James, 17 and Richard, 19. Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth and family have been actively engaged in 4-H Club work for nearly a decade.

name. The patience and perseverance of both man and beast in their getting to the fair is worthy of note. That 52 yoke of oxen from South Amherst went to the Fair showed a deep interest among the farmers in the success of the "show".

The show activities now are centered around the county Fair at Northampton. Our interest this year is especially taken with the 4-H exhibit of the prize winning Ayrshires by Richard, Gordon, David, Jimmie and Mary Wentworth. Mr. Harold Wentworth, their father, has a good-sized dairy herd of Ayrshire cows, the product of which goes into the Holyoke market. The young people have raised their own from calfhood and are a part of the larger herd. If this bent in life continues we shall not see 52 yoke of oxen on exhibit from South Amherst at Northampton, in the years to come, but very likely we will see double that number of dairy cows and heifers there that will keep the name South Amherst in historical review.

Wilbur O. Shumway

18 62 - 19 49



Wilbur Shumway, at ease, across the road from his son's farm. 1947. (G.H.)

SOUTH AMHERST

December 2, 1949

Wilbur O. Shumway, 87, died November 24 at his home on South East Street after a long illness. He was born in South Amherst at the Shumway home on Potwine Lane Sept. 2, 1862. Mr. Shumway's father was Dwight E. Shumway; his mother was Mrs. Mary (Potwine) Shumway. He attended the Amherst schools and followed the market garden business throughout his mature life. On January 4, 1879, he married Miss Lizzie G. Robinson of So. Amherst, who died in February, 1928. In 1930, he married Mrs. Georgiana Burrows of Pelham, who died in 1938. On March 30, 1939, he married Miss Ruth Shumway of Amherst. Mr. Shumway was a life-long member of the South Congregational Church and an early member of the Grange. Mr. Shumway's father, Dwight Shumway, was a skilled wood and iron working mechanic and maintained a shop on South East Street, while the son, Wilbur, followed the market garden business at his home on Middle Street.

Mr. Wilbur Shumway was an industrious busy man, giving himself wholeheartedly into whatever he put his hand. His integrity of character was sustained throughout his long life. He was of a generous nature and gave freely of both his strength and means. Mr. Shumway lived his complete cycle of life within one community which is an unusual occurrence.

Mr. Shumway had six children, three sons and three daughters. A deep sorrow came to the family in 1911, when their daughter, Helen, a girl of attractive personality, died at the age of nineteen and, again in 1917, when their elder son, Harry, a young man of fine character and promise, died at the age of twenty-eight. Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Mrs. Hovey Eaton of No. Reading, Massachusetts, and Mrs. William Oyler of Chicago; two sons, Winfred and Clifford, both of South Amherst; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. The funeral was at the Douglass Funeral Home at 2 o'clock Sunday, November 27. Rev. Arnold Kenseth, pastor of the South Church, officiated. The burial was in the South Amherst Cemetery. The bearers were Mr. Shumway's two sons, Winfred and Clifford, a grandson, Wilbur O., all of South Amherst and a son-in-law, Hovey Eaton, of North Reading.

HISTORY OF QUAIN CHAPEL AND BELL TOLD TO DEDICATE CHAPEL BELL SUNDAY

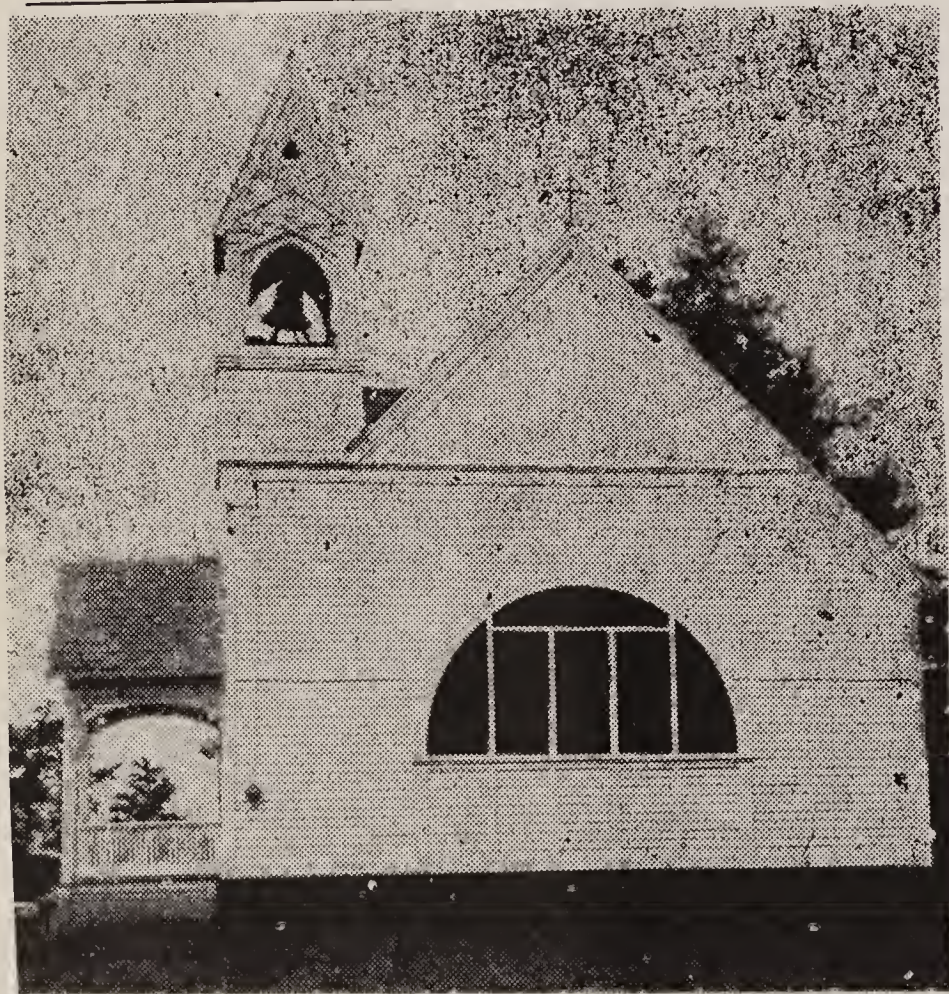
(October 14, 1949)

It was of special interest to us when we read on Sept. 3 that our neighboring community of Dwight was painting the Chapel and that the bell which came from the Packardville Church which was in the keeping of Amherst College, had been given, through the interest taken in the Chapel by Prof. Samuel Williams, to the Union Church Society of Dwight and installed in the Chapel belfry. Thus a dream of sixty years standing has been fulfilled as shown by the following history.

Belfry Built

The Chapel in whose tower this bell is hung was built in 1886, its corner stone laid Oct. 6 and its dedication on March 12, 1887. A tower with a belfry was erected on the building at that time and accommodation made for a bell to be hung. Somewhat later a bell was given but it was not of sufficient size to warrant its being hung in the belfry. This bell became possessed by the late Alden Day and hung at the peak of his barn, now owned by Charles Rhodes, where it still can be seen.

Just how this chapel came to be built is of interest — we



DWIGHT CHAPEL

read that the Methodist Circuit Riders came and went preaching the Gospel until finally a revival took place from the meeting held in the old brick schoolhouse which was located about one-quarter of a mile nearer Amherst than the chapel. It was in this brick school house, however, which was destroyed April 19, 1909 when a forest fire swept over this district, that Henry Ward Beecher preached his first sermon while a student at Amherst College in 1834. We read that as the result of renewed interest and the distance to erect a church home within their own community, which composed a district reaching from West Hill on the North to Bobbin Hollow, just over the mountain on the South, from the Amherst town line on the West to the Belchertown Ponds on the East.

An organization was formed and by laws adopted under the name of the Union Church Society. The Women's Society was an auxiliary which pledged two hundred dollars toward a chapel and by their persistence and courage raised a portion of it, in making and selling by personal solicitation throughout the neighboring towns, (transportation by horse and buggy) fifteen hundred holders. Other individual pledges were made that warranted the building of the Chapel.

A source of income for its upkeep was the annual "Grove" dinner in a grove across the road from the chapel. This event was of enough importance so that half-fare tickets on the C.V.R.R. were granted from Amherst and Belchertown to those wishing to attend the social outing and dinner.

Students Conducted Services

Records show that Sunday Services were conducted by college students studying for the ministry and retired ministers from Amherst. Later on, a joint arrangement was made with the Methodist Church of Amherst for the preaching service by their minister; still later the pastors of the Methodist Church of Belchertown had a similar arrangement.

Arthur Curtis James, a former trustee of Amherst College, was a teacher in the Church School in those early days when in college and gave liberally toward its support in later life.

In June, 1936, the Society became united with the West Pelham and Packardville churches as a federated church. Since this date, the pastor at the West Pelham Church has ministered to the Union Church Society at Dwight.

Bell Is Returned

When the Metropolitan Water District took over the Packardville Church the bell was bought of the wrecking Co. by ex-President King of Amherst College and brought back to Amherst College from whence it had originally come. The bell had been given by the classes 1870-71-72-73 of Amherst College to the people in Packardville to be hung in the belfry of their new church building. The historic interest of the bell is not only this, but the fact that cast into the bell is the following inscription:

Troy, N.Y. 1870

Presented to the Union Congregational Church and Society, Packardville, Mass. by students and alumni of Amherst College.

A.P. Lyon, Class 1870

E.S. Fritz, Class 1871

F.G. Finckle, Class 1872

J.M. Tylor, Class 1873

(We assume that the above names were men studying for the ministry and preached at the Packardville Church during these years.)

We do not have the names of those who preached at the Union Chapel at Dwight but we do know that students preached there in her early days and that substantial gifts have come to Chapel people from the College source to care for the substantial needs as they arise.

This neighborly spirit so exemplified by the College has taken root in Dwight to the formation of the "Friendly Neighbors" organization which takes the place of the earlier organization known as the "Women's Society." It is now sectarian. However that may be, they have the same interest in the welfare of the community and give the same hearty response of the Chapel.

It is very fitting that this bell, whose voice as once heard among the hills of Packardville, we will now hear in the valley of Dwight still ringing out the ever welcome call to the house of worship.

The dedication of the bell with suitable ceremonies in its new surroundings will take place Sunday, Oct. 16, at 10:45 in the Chapel at Dwight.

History Tells Us First McIntosh Apple Tree In So. Amherst Was Planted There in 1888

Oct 21, 1949

The fruit season of 1949 is fast drawing to an end having brought a goodly supply of all seasonal fruits. In the spring we look forward with anticipation to the luscious strawberry in June followed by the raspberry and blackberry in July, peaches from August to September and apples overlapping the peach season into October. That the crop anticipation does not always equal the realization reminds us of the home potato gardener who said he had not dug his potatoes "for fear his realization would not equal his anticipation." However we expect the potatoes were eventually harvested as the fruit culturalist gathers the fruit crop either large or small and we can say this year the yield is fully up to anticipation and represents the largest volume of this fruit that Massachusetts has ever produced.

McIntosh Harvest

The harvesting of the McIntosh apple is near the finish. Of the well known varieties such as the Baldwin, Greening, Northern Spy, Delicious, and Wealthy, the McIntosh tops the list and represents seventy-five per cent or more of apples grown here in South Amherst. This was not true fifty years ago when the Baldwin reigned supreme and the McIntosh was little known.

The first McIntosh tree that was transplanted into the soil of South Amherst was in the year 1888. This was a new variety and the nursery man had not commercialized it, except in a small way to the fruit grower. The step-up of the local apple industry dates from this time. When the late Mr. George H. Atkins, father of W. H., came to Amherst in 1887 and purchased the boyhood home farm of the late Judge J. C. Hammond of Northampton, he found an orchard of perhaps 100 trees, the largest in this section, on the farm, which had been started in about 1850 by Judge Hammond's father, Salem Hammond.

It is of interest to know that these original trees were taken up as wild seedlings from a pasture in "Log Town" or "Dwight" and transplanted onto the farm by Mr. Hammond and then grafted into known varieties. The bulge on the trunk of the tree caused by the growing graft can even now be seen on the few venerable trees that are still living. We judge by this that the growing and sale of apple trees from the nursery was not highly developed at that time and that grafting was a common practice.

Sold Fruit Trees

Nearly all farms had a few apple trees growing about the home buildings but no effort was made to increase and commercialize the production of the fruit. Mr. W. H. Atkins' father at that time was a nursery salesman and canvassed the district for the sale of fruit trees but the McIntosh was so little known that it had not been grown up to this time.

Thirty trees were added to the Atkins orchard in 1888 but no more McIntosh to the settings which followed in the next ten years as they were still an experimental variety. The two orchards of fifty trees each that were planted at that time on Pomeroy and Potwin Lanes were of the Baldwin variety. The next planting of any size was that of Myron Graves in 1895 of ten acres of Baldwins on the Bay Road, now owned by Ernest Markert. There may now be seen many of these old Baldwin trees that are still producing good apples.

College Used Orchard

This orchard was rented to the State College, now the University of Massachusetts, for a fifteen year period in 1907 as an experimental orchard to try out the effect of different fertilizers and cultivations versus non-cultivation methods of soil culture.

The next real stimulant to fruit growing was made by the late Professor Waugh and late Prof. Fred E. Sears in 1908, when they purchased a tract of land at the foot of Holyoke range of 150 acres bordering on the Bay Road. Here they set all the available cultivated land to apple trees. Willard Munson now director of Extension at the U.M. was their first farm manager. This now is known as the Bay Road Fruit Farm. The following ten years there was a boom in apple orcharding. Stiles, Johnson, Whitcomb, Markert, Wheelock, Barton, Bridgman.

Schoonmaker, Gray, Hutchings, Sanders, Lyman, and just over the line in Belchertown the Hulst farm all had planted sizeable orchards from five to twenty-five or fifty acres, not to mention the increased plantings on the Atkins and Graves farms or the smaller home settings.

New Developments

Along with increased apple production has come increased enemies of both the foliage and the fruit. The research departments of our College of Agriculture have developed insecticides which if applied at the right time will take care of the most of them. A great development in machinery with which to apply these materials has also taken place. From the barrel pump to the speed sprayer, a machine which blows a hurricane mist of insecticides into the foliage of the tree.

Like all other booms, the boom in orchard setting had its day. Five of the above named orchards have been abandoned, perhaps the most striking is the Hulst orchards of seventy-five or more acres. The largest holdings today are the two Markert farms, the combined Atkins acreage and the Critchett or Bay Road orchards. These three combined outfits will pick 50,000 boxes or bushels this year. The science of the production of the apple has reached such a point that no better fruit is produced than right here in our home town.

A complete change in the marketing policy has been experienced by the pioneers in this industry from the early days when apples were packed in barrels until about 1930 when a change came to baskets and then boxes, which is now the accepted container.

Up to World War I apples were offered to the consumer at the store by the peck, at this time the change came to selling to the householder by the pound, which method is being followed at the present time.

The McIntosh is not only supreme as an eating apple but is in a class by itself for a delicious homemade apple pie. "An apple a day keeps the Doctor away" is the slogan of the fruit grower and a good rule to follow.



Uncle Fred and Cliff Tiffany play croquet on the lawn south of the (Hoyt) Tiffany house north of Millers. Some 90 yr. old apple trees in the background. (Lila Tiffany)

ORIGIN OF "LOG TOWN" NAME A MYSTERY; MANY HISTORICAL REASONS CITED

(December 30, 1949)

The occasion of placing a descriptive name on a locality is often forgotten as time brings changes. We all know why the Bay Road in South Amherst is called "Bay", but why was the village of Dwight once called Log Town?

Data Brought Out

With the study of the history of the bell, recently hung at the Chapel in Dwight, has come interesting data as to the locality itself. Log Town, or Dwight, was a section of Belchertown that lies in the Connecticut Valley bounded on the west by the town line of Amherst, on the east by the Belchertown ponds. We find its northern outposts up among the hills to the north and its southern, the Holyoke Range to the south.

In 1784, a committee of seven men divided the town into seven school districts authorizing the building of seven new schoolhouses, naming each district, one of which was "Log Town", or our present "Dwight". This district was known as "Log Town" for many years after this. A personal history of the building of the Chapel in 1886 substantiates this. Quote: My acquaintance with the people of "Dwight", at that time more commonly called "Log Town".

No Written History

We do not find any historical written data why this section was called "Log Town", but we do find where there were three different log saw mills furnished with water power, and logs from the forest sawed. One was situated by the pond across the road from Pansy Park Tavern, near the Amherst-Belchertown Road. Another mill on the Gulf Road, about one-half mile up the hill from Dwight, served with water power from the brook that now flows down the hill by the Gulf Road from Scarborough Pond and its tributaries, which seek their supply from the mountainous district of northwest Belchertown. A third mill was supplied by the same brook and set up in Log Town valley close by the Amherst-Belchertown highway, just beyond the crossing of Gulf Road at Dwight. Here, we find the old embankments at one's right that held the water in a reservoir which the Gulf Brook supplied. The trench in which the trough or penstock was located, that conducted the water to the reservoir can even now be traced back into the forest to where it drew its supply of water from a connection with the brook, a historical testimony that time has not obliterated. We are unable to find data as to when this mill was abandoned.

However, when steam power came, mills were moved to the logs in the forest instead of the logs to the mill.

Log Transportation

A good illustration of the abandonment of the water power for sawing is that at Mill Valley in Amherst. We have authentic information, that, after the Amherst-Belchertown Railroad was built in 1853, oak timbers for ship building were loaded on the cars and transported to the New London shipyards. We would assume that these timbers were sawed at this log sawing mill at Dwight just noted, which was situated close by the R.R. Here large piles of wood were sawed and furnished to the R.R. trains with which to stoke their wood burning furnaces for the steam power engine. Here, water was taken from a large tank which was supplied from the brook for refilling of the boiler of the engine. With all of this data at hand, it's easy to understand why this district was called "Log Town".

Dwight in 1853

Other interesting facts concerning this Log Town locality are of interest. From what we have been able to learn, the name Dwight was first given to this section when, in 1853, the Amherst and Belchertown R.R. was first opened and it became known as Dwight Station. The name Dwight was that of early

settlers of Belchertown. One Colonel Dwight platted the town in 1727 into six divisions. A grandson was the first male child born in Belchertown. Justus Dwight, who lived at Log Town, petitioned the legislature in 1771 for a road to Amherst. Captain Nathaniel Dwight came from Northampton in 1734 and was granted land one mile square at what was Log Town. He was followed by four generations of Dwights. A very natural sequence was to name the new railroad Dwight Station at Log Town, in 1853.

Pansy Park

When the Central Massachusetts division of the Boston and Main R.R. was opened on December 17, 1887, the station of that road was named Pansy Park, in recognition of the development of the Pansy industry by the late Mr. L.W. Goodell, a successful floriculturist, whose home and grounds were that known in later years as Pansy Park Tavern. This railroad, as well as the Central Vermont, carried passengers.

An advertisement in those days listed 22 freight and passenger trains that passed through Dwight each day. These roads are parallel to one another as they pass through South Amherst and Dwight. It is of interest to note that the C.V.R.R. had the station name of Dwight, while across the road was Pansy Park of the Central Mass. R.R. It must have been somewhat confusing to find when buying a ticket for either station you would land at the same village. In the year 1900, there were three through trains on the B. & M. to Boston and return each day, and two on the Central Vermont to New London and return.

Passenger Service Ends

At this date, the passenger service has been discontinued on both roads, the Boston and Maine in 1933, the C.V. about the same time. A general store and Post Office were maintained at Dwight; the latter was discontinued when, in 1912, rural delivery out of Amherst became effective. All mail to this section is now addressed Amherst R.F.D. 2.

Lumber Cutting

To go back to 1743, we read that the Massachusetts General Court passed a law forbidding the cutting of all pine of the diameter of 24 inches 12 feet above the ground. These were reserved by the British government as masts for the Navy. Records show that at one time 363 trees were marked with the broad arrow to signify they were to be reserved for the British government. Those taken were drawn to the Connecticut River and floated down its waters to the shipyards. We know not if any were taken from Log Town, but up to twenty-five years ago there was a grove of pine in the "Great Swamp" known as the "Primeval Forest". Among its trees were those that might easily have filled the specifications even at that time.

Holland Glen

Holland Glen is another romantic spot which was named in honor of the author, Dr. J.G. Holland, rises up among the hills to the left of Amherst-Belchertown Highway, about one mile east of the school house of Dwight. A swift stream flows over the ledges of rock and forms beautiful waterfalls. Mammoth hemlocks rise from its depths to shade its moss covered borders.

Some forty years ago the Belchertown Historical Society became interested in this glen of waterfalls and trees of primeval date and raised by subscription sufficient funds to buy the 30 acres that enclosed the glen.

Named for Dr. Holland

The North Pond, one of the three Belchertown ponds, also carries the name of Holland. These places were named in honor of Dr. J.G. Holland, who was born at Log Town in 1812. Dr. Holland was both author and historian. In 1855, he published in two volumes the history of the four western counties of Massachusetts. He was also an editor of the Springfield Republican, Century and Scribners magazines.

So we find that Log Town, Dwight, or Pansy Park, as the case may be, has been an active participant in the constructive changes as they came and the intellectual thought of the times.

SOUTH AMHERST'S REVIEW OF 1949 FINDS A WELCOME BALANCE OF GAIN FOR LOSS

(January 6, 1950)

Births and Deaths

If we remember correctly Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt had a column in a syndicate of papers headed "My Day" which was popular among her admirers. Although not competent to write a column on "My Day", we will try a column on "My Year of 1949" using such material as we may gather from 1949 notes. Perhaps the most important notes of the year are the births of boys and girls to grow up and fill in the ranks made vacant by the dropping out of others. In consulting the town records, we find the following names in our village of these little personalities that may play an important role in the history of Amherst in years to come: Jeffry Thayer, Cynthia Schoonmaker, Robert Markert, Elizabeth Atkins, June Vondell, Mary O'Keeke, Heidi Markert and Robert Warner. Here we see life beginning, but as we turn about we also see life ending. There have been eight deaths, the average of the eight 82 years 8 months — the seven oldest of these 85 years, 8 months. Another that of Miss Amy Bridgman, a former resident, born here and granddaughter of the George Nutting who built our church in 1825, Miss Bridgman reached the age of 84. The burial was in the South Amherst cemetery. We now have fifteen residents whose average age is over 84. These records would indicate that South Amherst is a desirable community in which to live to attain an old age.



The Holt, (Nash, E. Marsh, Koeber) house, built by Jonathan Marsh who was born in 1749. Four generations have lived in this house. (H.M.)



The Tufts, (Geo. Hannum, B. Bridgman) residence on Middle St., without the front porch of the late 19th century. Amy and Gertrude Bridgman lived there. 1972 (H.M.)



Amy Bridgman, of an illustrious South Amherst family, granddaughter of the builder of the church. 1889 (H.M.)

February 10, 1950

The funeral service of Mr. Carl Hauff of South East Street was held Saturday, February 4, at the Douglass funeral parlors. The Rev. Charles Paul officiated. The bearers were Howard Main, Kenneth Main, Clifford Seymore, Kenneth Stirby, Walter Tenney, and Frederick Hauff. Burial was in the South Cemetery. Mr. Hauff's wife, whose maiden name was Nellie Main, died in 1914.

He leaves a son, Carl, who resides in Springfield, Mass., and a brother, William, who, with his wife, has made his home with him many years. Mr. Hauff built his house in 1912 and specialized in the repair and renovating of furniture. He was skilled in the art of restoring antique pieces to their original beauty. Mr. Hauff was ever willing and helpful with advice to those who sought it and will be much missed by the ones who looked to him for counsel.

Marriages

There have been seven marriages; with one exception the boys went outside of South Amherst to win their fair lady. It is also true with one exception that the girls were sought by the swain of other towns.

These figures do not show any definite change in the "status quo" of the population. However there is an increase in the number of residents as shown by the seven new houses that have been built and six apartments constructed within the present buildings, making accommodations for thirteen families, nine of which are already occupied.

Rev. Louis Toppan resigned as pastor of the church in March and Rev. Arnold Kenseth moved into the parsonage June 1.

John Schoonmaker with his family drove to Salt Lake City and back in the month of June.

Walter Kentfield and Stephen Wales spent the summer in the wild and woolly West looking for adventure.

The Vacation Bible School was held for two weeks in July.

The 4th of July a community picnic was enjoyed on the common enlivened by a parade of floats, and the American Legion Band.

In June Albert Brace won the State Chicken of Tomorrow contest and donated the prize money to the Children's Hospital of Boston.

Historical Notes

The naming of Hop Brook — "Hop" because of the wild hops that grew along its banks — was authenticated.

The planning in 1703 of Pomeroy and Potwine Lanes, that were cross ways through the forest from one street to the other.

The history of the church bell and the Chapel bell at Dwight with the dedication of the latter has been recently told in full by the *Journal*.

Fast Day proclaimed by Gov. Winthrop because of "hunger, sickness and death" to "soften the Divine Chastisement" became so poorly observed in our day that the legislature in 1894 made as a substitute the date of April 19, naming it Patriot's Day which is often called Lexington Day.

The history of the Hampshire Fair organized in 1850 with a show of 500 cattle, 195 yoke of oxen and 123 horses, held on Amherst common.

The odd vote of the selectmen in 1868 to put lightning rods on all school houses.

A recent survey of South Amherst showed 25% of the privately owned buildings now have protection with lightning cable. 10% of the buildings burned in the last thirty years have been caused by lightning.

The Grange dances were discontinued last Spring because of lack of support but in October they held a successful fair in the Munson Building, offering cash premiums on fruits, vegetables and household arts.

The fire department has been called into our district thirteen times, three grass fires, one barn, two autos, one oil burner, one chimney, three at the dump and one at a storage shed on Depot Road, also that of a load of hay in the field on July 4th which had it been known and could have been attended by the merry makers on the common, their jest would have known no bounds.

Transportation of school children has been bettered by change of schedule and the timing of trips.

In December a community Christmas tree was attended by 200.

Mr. H.C. Hutching's home for the Youth Hostel reports having 235 guests the past year. One group from Switzerland and 29 different occupations represented. The groups came from fourteen different states and four nations.

Homes for two D.P.'s have been provided in South Amherst.

No radical change in the stability of the poultry business. The dairy has been kept on even keel but the fruit business has suffered severe losses. A crop that was expected to be below normal has proved to be above and selling at ruinous prices.

Earl Goman has added a greenhouse to the two already in operation and is well equipped to supply cut flowers and plants suitable for all occasions.

A local home was opened for the Christmas party under the auspices of the L.B.S. for the D.P.'s that had recently arrived in nearby towns. An interesting incident was the photographing of the party by "Life" photographers. One of these pictures appeared in their magazine.

The church with her affiliated organizations has carried out her programs according to schedule throughout the year. This can also be said of the Thursday Club, the Grange and the "Cosattec" or "double or nothing club". The 4-H club has been active through its school organization. We have tried in our writings of the past year to give authentic dates and present history and news in an interesting way for the readers. The many words of appreciation that have been received were most gratifying to the writer.

HISTORY OF AMHERST NEEDED

(February 3, 1950)

In the last year we have become much interested in the historical data of Amherst, more especially that of South Amherst. In our study we have been greatly assisted by information gathered from the history of Amherst up to 1895 compiled and edited by Carpenter and Morehouse. It is of interest that in 1890 Mr. Morehouse lived in South Amherst on Shays Street in the house now owned and occupied by Mr. George Page. His sister, Mrs. Alice Morehouse Walter wrote the book "Old Homes of Amherst" as well as other historical writings. We know not who gave the more thought in compiling and editing the book "History of Amherst", Mr. Morehouse or Mr. Carpenter. However, the firm of Carpenter and Morehouse who were then publishing the weekly paper "Amherst Record", assumed the responsibility of editing and publishing this historical information as we find it in the book under the name of "History of Amherst."

In their introduction to the book, they make this statement in speaking of Amherst: "A town not without a history, but without an historian, such a distinction is not to be coveted." They further say: "When the suggestion of compiling and publishing the History of Amherst was first made to some of the older and more influential residents of the town it was received with such hearty favor and so warmly encouraged that a determination was formed to enter upon the work forthwith."

This was back in the early nineties that this resolve was made and in 1895 came forth the book with the chronology and the information brought up to that date.

There is no way in which we can repay these men for their foresight and labors but by picking up the thread of their story and bringing it forward to 1950, another half century. If this could be done once in each fifty years the accuracy of the life of Amherst in her various fields of endeavor would be assured.

We have thought much data could be brought together by public spirited citizens. There are men who have retired from the college, as well as other citizens, who are eminently fitted to gather and bring into chronological form the historical facts of the past fifty years. An editor would be necessary to compile this information, the expense of which would need to be provided for in some way.

It would be very fitting if the Historical Society felt that they could sponsor this project of bringing the information of the various activities of the town of the past fifty years into book form. There is no better memorial one can leave to posterity than a book that presents the history of the past. Such a book is of inestimable worth and a treasure to coming generations.

We urge that serious thought be given to these suggestions that something tangible may take form and bring to fruition this much desired and worthwhile project.



Looking northwest across the South Congregational cemetery that lies between So. East and Middle St. 1972 (H.M.)

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TOWN'S BURIAL GROUNDS

February 3, 1950

The time of the election of town officials comes to us this month. Some of the voters have a cloudy idea of just what the duties are for the officials of the various departments. The department of cemetery commissioner is a vital one to every living man and yet apparently is little understood.

The question has been asked of the writer "What are the duties of the cemetery commissioner?" Before answering the above question we would like to take you back in history to the story of the early cemeteries as told in the historical book by Carpenter and Morehouse.

First Cemetery

The first cemetery of record was what is now known as the West Cemetery, laid out in 1730.

This was the cemetery for the center, North, and South Amherst until 1818 when land was bought of one David Moody in So. Amherst for an acre on South East Street for \$80.00. The same was done in North Amherst buying of Martin Baker one acre at the same price of \$80.00, reserving to each original owner and his heirs the right of pasturing his sheep on the premises. This was an economical way of keeping the grass down and was not out of harmony with the quiet and sacred thought of those who mourned.

In 1846, \$200 was voted by the town with which to plant trees in all three cemeteries. In 1876, quote: "Two hundred dollars was subscribed by citizens to keep the West Cemetery in repair. The sum was expended under the direction of a committee of ladies with satisfactory results." We wish that it could be told just what was done; we do know that in the early days family lots were raised six or eight inches above the surface surrounding them and later there was a move to bring them all to an even level so that mowing could be more easily and better done. The monuments were in the way of the use of a plow and harrow, so the work was done by hand using the mattock, hoe and shovel. To tear up with the mattock and shovel the whole cemetery grounds of sod was no small task. Possibly the fence needed repair and some monuments reset. Whatever was done was under the direction of the women of that day. We can readily believe there was much esprit de corps, that cold drinks of various strength and color for each individual taste was brought to the toiler, and also that doughnuts and hot gingerbread were served to stir the languishing workman to greater effort.

Just when the South and North cemeteries were no longer pastured by sheep we do not know but most likely when the cemeteries ceased to be common land and family burial lots were being bought and deeded by the town to those who wished to purchase.

Costs 50 and 60 Years Ago

Accounts taken from old town reports show that the costs of maintaining the cemeteries in 1889 were West Cemetery \$54.95, North \$28.67, and South \$12.35. Ten years later in 1899 the West Cemetery, \$97.35; North, \$30.00 and South, \$6.40.

The figures just given would show that not much more than scythe mowing could have been done. With the present lawn mowing, clipping about the monuments and other care given the cemeteries, the costs have crept up since 1899 — a fifty year stretch to a total for the three of \$2,985. However, in comparing these figures we must remember that 20 cents per hour was paid for labor fifty years ago against near a dollar now.

We can well remember the spotty appearance of the cemetery with one lot kept mowed and well cared for while full grown grass was surrounding the memorial stones of the next. The village improvement society organized about 1885 gave the cemetery at South Amherst what care it has, always scythe mowing of the ground the week before Memorial Day and general slicking up of the grounds. This was continued till 1902 when the first cemetery commissioners were appointed. In 1890 the Village Improvement Society of South Amherst began to agitate cemetery improvement and under took the leveling of the South Cemetery and reseeding of the same. This was done in a series of years in the same laborious way as that probably done at the center cemetery. The first commissioners of cemeteries in 1902 were F.L. Pomeroy, Asa Adams, and Thomas W. Smith. It is very evident that this was their first year and the first board of commissioners as there is no reference in previous town reports to such a committee. As may be noticed there was a named representative from each section of the town. We note that in many previous years to 1902, there were small appropriations, designating the amount for each cemetery. We expect these funds were used by the selectmen allotting the care and use of them any time to the village improvement society or some other similar organization. This manner of accounting, however, was changed when the commission was elected and the funds for their use became a joint account to be used and allotted by them.

Present Board of Commissioners

The present board of commissioners consists of Clifton Winn, Howard Parsons and Henry Wentworth, the latter is the representative appointed whose duties, according to Webster, were to "care for the church yard (cemetery) and attend to burials." The commission now has taken over these duties and has full control of the funds while formerly the disbursement was by the selectmen. The commissioner has the plan of all the family lots in a blue print. He is ever ready to go with an enquirer for the location of any specific lot.

The monuments are kept in the position as originally planned. When a death occurs the commissioner attends the burial. The grounds are kept mowed and trimmed throughout the growing season. When the snows of winter come, necessary paths are opened as occasion arises.

The commissioners may sell a burial lot but it devolves upon the selectmen to give the deed. The commissioners must give a detailed account of all expenses which need to be approved by the selectmen before payment. Otherwise they have full control of the cemeteries they are in supreme command, except they must not overrun their appropriation of funds by the town.



The Fred Jewett salt box house today, Bay Road (H.M.)

HOUSES IN SOUTH AMHERST

WITH A HISTORY

— Stage coaches rumbled past that of Fred Jewett's, Peter Couch's and Emery Darling's. It was the responsibility of Deacon Reed's family to ring the church bell to summon help when there was a fire — as when Daddy Rose's smithy burned, on So. East St. The Tidlund house once was a store.



An early sketch of the Ives (Darling) home by Nellie Ives, West St. and Bay Road. (P.T.I.)



The Peter Couch (John Nutting) home in the 1920's — the one story section, 1787, being the earliest dwelling in Nuttingville. (J.C.L.)



A view of the church steeple north of the (Deacon Reed) MacLeod home, thought to have been built in 1806. South East St. (N.M.)

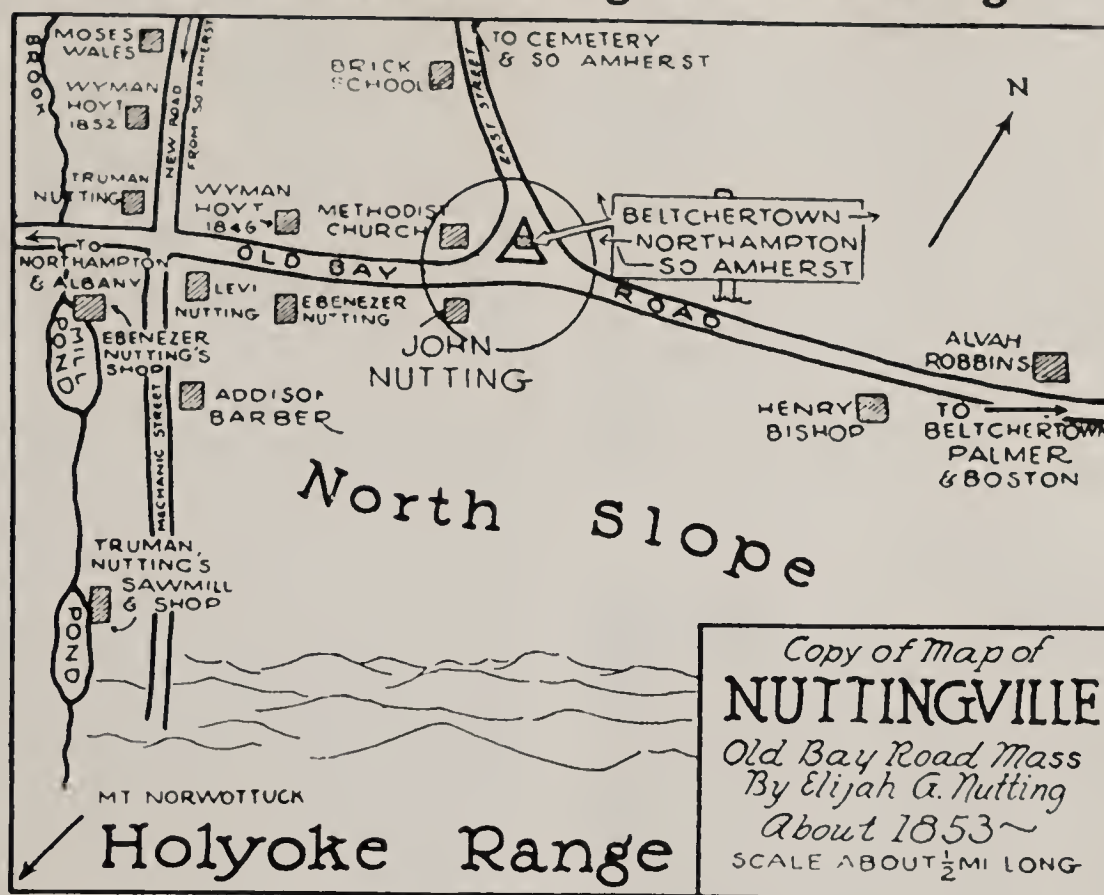


The (Vondell) Tidlund home — porch added 1962 — an early store. (A.T.)

HISTORICAL DATA ON
SOUTH EAST STREET SCHOOL DISTRICT
(BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE
STILL LEAVES MANY MEMORIES)

February 10, 1950

Site of School Building 100 Years Ago



The recent sale of the land at the corner of South East Street and Bay Road on which a brick school house stood in the South East School District 100 years ago brings to our attention the historical data in connection with this school district. In 1791 the town voted to build a schoolhouse in this section of the town because of the large number of children of school age. Evidently this was burned down soon after building as shown by the following vote of the town in 1796.

School House Rebuilt

Voted: "Appropriation of \$200 with which to build a school house in the South East District of the same dimensions as the one that had been burned."

Notes of Interest

In the book of *Historic Homes of Amherst* by Alice M. Walker, who had a personal acquaintance with the late Mrs. Louise (Bridgman) Porter, we read: "The Bridgman boys and girls learned their first lessons in a wooden schoolhouse on the site of the present home of Dwight Dickinson in the South East District. Little Louisa, three years old, who had a passion for drawing sat upon a low front seat and was punished for making pictures on her book."

When this school house did not fill the needs of the district a more permanent one was constructed of "brick" as we read further from Mrs. Walker's narrative.

Later the wooden schoolhouse was moved away and a fine "brick" building constructed in its place. Here during school hours Webster's spelling book and the queer geographies and arithmetics of that day were diligently studied with variations of "I spy" and jumping the rope at recess. The "brick" for the new brick building was probably supplied by Louisa's father, Jonathan Bridgman, who made brick at a near by location on Bay Road.

Date of Brick Schoolhouse

The date of the new brick one is not known but from corresponding familiar data and the time of other brick construction in this section of Amherst of which we do have authentic records the year must have been near to that of 1825.

Just when this brick building outgrew its usefulness for school purposes we do not find in the records. However, we do find in the town report of 1860 that there was a school population of 63 which would indicate that larger accommodations were needed and perhaps had already been built. It was sometime before 1870, as we know that the "brick" school house was used as a dwelling at this time; for it was here that the late Mr. Walter Dickinson was born in 1870. His father, Dwight Dickinson had previously bought the property and it had been converted into a dwelling house.

The corner of the Bay Road and the South East Street where the little "brick" schoolhouse and a small Methodist Church were located was in the section known as Nuttingville. By this corner stage coaches twixt Boston and Northampton traveled daily over the Bay Road and others from Palmer turning at this point on to South East Street and thence over Shay St. to Amherst. The associations and impressions connected with one's early school days is well told by the late lawyer J.C. Hammond in an address at the "Old Home Day" reunion in South Amherst in 1921. Quote: "Before the railroad days the stage, sometimes with four horses, used to pass through our East Street and by the 'brick' schoolhouse on its trips to and from Palmer. It seemed to the children an event of the greatest moment, a suggestion of the great world outside which we had never seen" and again "Writ large in my memory in the district No. 7 school house almost down to the Methodist Church on the Bay Road, we smaller children played tag in the street and the fields. My teacher, Miss Emily

Nutting, next to my parents, was the greatest influence on my life."

We find on record that Miss Emily Nutting taught in the little "brick" schoolhouse in 1852 and 1853. Mr. Hammond says that when she resigned from teaching she gave each of the pupils a card with the following farewell words: "Farewell dear scholars, farewell all. We meet no more in learning's hall.

Your teacher's praise to you is given. Be always just and live for heaven. To walk in virtue's path we'll try that we may meet in worlds on high. Goodbye, dear scholars, all goodbye."

Thus we look back to the days of the late lawyer J.C. Hammond in the "Halls of Learning" at the South East School district, obtaining his first inspiration in knowledge and strengthening of character as he says "next to my parents Miss Nutting was the greatest influence in my life." Two daughters now living of the late J.C. Hammond, Miss Maude and Miss May Hammond of Northampton give us the connecting link back to those early days of their father when character was strengthened under the roof of the little "brick" schoolhouse.

Thus ends our story of the little "brick" schoolhouse that stood for 100 years, used first as a schoolhouse and in later years as a dwelling. It burned in 1929 leaving but historic data and tradition to the coming generations.



MODERNIZED HOME
of JOHN NUTTING of
WHICH ORIGINAL PART
WAS BUILT in 1787

← From a Springfield newspaper, Mar. 31, 1930.

CENTURY OF NUTTINGVILLE LIFE

TRACED IN CHURCH, SCHOOL, CHAPEL

March 10, 1950

To start this story we must go back 125 years to the establishment of the South Congregational Church and the building of the meeting house in 1825. From this early beginning of this first church home in South Amherst we come to that of the Methodist home 25 years later in that portion of South Amherst called Nuttingville.

This little Methodist Church was built in 1848 at the corner of Bay Road and South East Street about two miles south of the Congregational Church by the village green. The name Nuttingville for this community was derived from the family name of Nutting of which there were several domiciled at this point.

Just why this Methodist Church was built in 1848 when there was a good, nearly new church less than two miles away we do not know, but sectarianism was very definite and essential to salvation at that time. We do not find in any records that we have that this church organization drew any members from the Congregational Church but was started by those who were of the Methodist persuasion. Very likely some came up from Dwight to this little church where services were maintained until about 1875. That there were people of Methodist learning at Dwight was shown 12 years later in 1887 when the Dwight Chapel was built and ministered to by the pastors of Methodist churches of Amherst and Belchertown. It is also of interest that the Methodist Church of Amherst was organized in 1868 and thus opened a Methodist home for



CHAPEL ROAD, SOUTH AMHERST - In 1902, the small chapel (to the far right of picture) for which "Chapel Road" (now Mechanic Street) was named, was built. In later years the chapel was moved to the rear of the South Amherst Congregational Church and affixed to that structure. This picture, taken from Bay Road, looking toward Hadley,

(if one can believe the signpost at the far left), is not dated but the two houses on the left are identified as "Mrs. Stebbins' house" and "Hoyt House." Alfred C. Scott of Dana Street has lent the Record this picture, originally part of the estate of the late Miss Florence Hayward.

those of like faith who were unable to continue the maintenance of the little Methodist Church in South Amherst at Nuttingville, of which the late lawyer J.C. Hammond said in an address at South Amherst in 1921:

"The little Methodist Church had a very attractive interior. Alas, that it has disappeared! In the sad days of church differences at the White Church at the Village Green, I, with my brothers Lyman and Henry, had leave to go there. Rev. John Jones of Pelham preached acceptably there for a considerable time. I remember his coming and going, driving his farm horse." It is of interest to know that he was the great-grandfather of Mrs. Raymond Jenks of Dwight.

Burned in 1929

Mr. Fred Adams, who came to South Amherst with his parents as a boy of five in 1872, remembers attending a service at the little Methodist Church on the corner of South East Street and Bay Road. The church was later bought by Mr. Dwight Dickinson, converted into a barn and moved close to the little brick school house which he had already purchased as a dwelling house. This burned with the house in 1929 and thus closes this part of our story.

The location of the church may be seen by examining the Nuttingville map.

Seventh Day Adventist

In 1878 a representative of the Seventh Day Adventist Church came into Nuttingville and was successful in gathering a group about him to accept the doctrine and belief of his faith, that Saturday the seventh day of the week should be observed as the Sabbath. Their services were held weekly in the home of some member of this new group. Some who were members of the Congregational Church withdrew from that organization and allied themselves with the Seventh Day group. The followers of this faith were baptized in a nearby pool supplied by the Baby Carriage brook that originates from springs on the South Mountain. No additional families were added to the number in succeeding years and now there is but one living in Nuttingville of the Seventh Day Adventist faith. After the first few years the membership disintegrated both by death and backsliding. The last active proponent of the faith was Dr. Mary Sanderson who maintained a sanitarium in the Old Homestead about 1920, a doctor of skill and a fine Christian character. Substituting Saturday and working

Photo from a booklet that quaintly advertises the health-giving properties of a rest at the Mountain Range Sanitarium, Dr. Mary Sanderson, M.D. (Former "Dyer" Robbins home.) About 1920. (Courtesy Mrs. Stella Slaby Rainey).



MOUNTAIN RANGE SANITARIUM

Sunday was quite a shock to the Old New Englanders of the last century and brought forth many uncomplimentary remarks, but as Mr. Morehouse says in the **History of Amherst**, "The hard feelings that were first excited by the action of the founders have worn away and the neighbors have learned to respect their motives, however little they may sympathize with their faith."

South East Sunday School

We do not know just when the Sunday School sponsored by Amherst College held its first session at Nuttingville in the school house of No. 8 district. We doubt if there are any written records unless in the archives of Amherst College. However, the writer's memory goes back to 1887 when he came to Amherst and at that time Sunday School services were held every Sunday afternoon. Mr. Adams bears testimony that some years before this there was a Sunday School held in the schoolhouse. It would seem reasonable that after the little Methodist Church ceased to function in 1875 there was still a need and that the College offered their help by arranging with two of their students to go down and conduct both Sunday School in the afternoon and a service in the evening. Perhaps this was as early as 1875.

School House Burned

In March 1901 the school house burned but was rebuilt the same year. However, it was thought best not to have the school house used further for religious services. This was the main reason for forming the S.E.S.S. Association to provide a home for the religious and social life of the community.

Chapel Built

The association organized immediately as an incorporated body, voted to build a chapel and proceeded forthwith to secure a building site and necessary funds for the project. The site chosen was on Mechanic Street. A neighborly interest in those of another faith was shown by the landowner, Mr. Eugene Sanderson, one of the Seventh Day faith who allotted the site for the building and by his daughter, Dr. Mary Sanderson, who later gave a deed of the plot to the South East Sunday School Association. Since the building of the chapel, Mechanic Street is better known as Chapel Road.

A happy response came from present and past members of the community to such a degree that a building of suitable size and convenience was completed and dedicated in 1902. Later on a horse shed and a kitchen were added to the building. Up to this time the two students who ministered to the community in the S.S. and evening service drove down with horse and buggy. When the electric line was opened in 1902 over the mountain, they came by electric car and were met by one of the Association members, entertained to supper, and returned to the car after the service.

Social and Religion

The Chapel was the social and religious center for many years. Full programs on Christmas and Easter were enacted here and social events with the community suppers. The doors were opened for several weeks as a refuge to a family driven from their home by a fire. It was in about 1916 that county missionary, Rev. John Wrightman on a county tour, erected a tent on the Chapel grounds and conducted services for two weeks.

Representatives of an outside religious organization in the year 1948 held a series of household meetings in this district teaching a more intensified religious living. This has caused one family to withdraw from the South Church to link themselves

with this other organization. Otherwise all Protestant families of South Amherst make the center of their religious life about the South Congregational Church which is ever welcoming those of other denominations as well.



Shown above is the South Amherst Chapel, built in 1902, which was dismantled in 1939 and given to the South Congregational Church for the construction of a new kitchen as an addition to the church building.

New Church Kitchen

The Chapel after filling the needs of the people both religiously and socially for a number of years was given in 1939 by the South East Sunday School Association to the South Congregational Church, the purpose of which when dismantled was for the construction of a new kitchen as an addition to the church building. A photograph of the chapel as it stood from 1902-1939 before being dismantled and converted into a church kitchen is shown on this page.

And so we have told the story of the religious and social life of Nuttingville in the last 100 years as centered around the church, the school house and the chapel. Now we turn the leaf of history with her teachings and aspirations to the present day, a day of new opportunities for neighborly service to mankind.



View of kitchen addition. 1972.

GEORGE NUTTING HOUSE ON
SOUTH EAST STREET, NOW USED
AS A HEN COOP

From a Springfield newspaper, Mar. 31, 1930.

PATRIOTIC AMHERST GROUP MIGHT COMPILE LOCAL HISTORY WITHOUT APPROPRIATION, TAX INCREASE

March 17, 1950

In commenting upon the authorship of the book "History of Amherst" in the February 3 issue of the *Journal* we said, quote "We know not who gave the more thought in compiling and editing the History of Amherst, Mr. Morehouse or Mr. Carpenter." Since writing this, the "attic" has produced information in regard to the author of the book that is of interest. In the *Western New England Magazine* published by the Springfield Board of Trade, in the October number of 1912, we read these words: "The people of Amherst owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Morehouse for writing and to the firm of Carpenter and Morehouse for publishing at a financial loss the excellent "History of Amherst." The above information that Mr. Morehouse was the editor of the book is authenticated by W.R. Brown who had business and neighborhood acquaintance with both Mr. Morehouse and the firm of Carpenter and Morehouse at that time.

In a review of the life of the Amherst Historical Society that was published in the Northampton Daily Gazette about 1939, we find these words "Amherst is sadly in need of plans for a comprehensive history of the town. The Carpenter and Morehouse History of Amherst was published in 1896 and in the succeeding forty and more years much has taken place which should be properly and officially recorded." The correspondent goes on to say:

Article in the Town Warrant

"In 1926 a group of interested persons had an article inserted in the town warrant at the annual town meeting in March petitioning for the production of a concise popular up-to-date history of the town of Amherst for use in the public schools and elsewhere." This petition was signed by Charles S. Walker, George S. Kendrick, Roy Blair, Ray Stannard Baker, Frederick Leitch, Arthur B. Kentfield, Frank Nestle, Helena Goessmann, Edwin T. Fish, J. Edward Duell and Charles R. Green. The funds for this project were denied by the town.

We can see by these records that it is no new thought to suggest the editing and compiling of the historical data that has accumulated since 1896. It is doubtful if the town would feel warranted today to appropriate \$5,000 for this purpose which would mean fifty cents on the tax rate. However, there may be a group of patriotic citizens that would subscribe sufficient funds to bring this much desired project to fulfillment. One hundred shares at \$50 each would raise the \$5,000 called for in the project as presented in 1926.



WALTER H. HAYWARD CELEBRATES 85th BIRTHDAY; RELATES AMHERST MEMORIES

March 24, 1950

Walter H. Hayward, a resident on West Street, observed his eighty-fifth birthday Sunday, March 19. Not many persons live to be of his age in the same house in which they were born but that is the distinction that goes to Mr. Hayward. Mr. Hayward observed his birthday in the 200 year old colonial house of the saltbox pattern in which he was born and his father had lived



Walter Hayward with two friends, also of West Street: Frank T. Ives, Mrs. Emma (Will) Sanderson. 1953. (P.T.I.)

before him. Mr. Hayward was given a shower of cards in recognition of his birthday by his friends and neighbors. Sunday morning he helped about the regular farm chores and then attended the South Congregational Church from which he is seldom absent. Rev. Arnold Kenseth at the church service commended him for his long, constant faithfulness to the church of his youth. His wife is the former Miss Carrie Smith of South Hadley, where they were married on June 24, 1896. They observed their golden wedding anniversary three years ago with friends and neighbors.

They have two sons, Lester B., a hardware merchant in Middletown, Connecticut, and Ralph who is associated with his father in general farming.

Mr. Hayward joined the South Church in his boyhood and later in 1923 with Mrs. Hayward became a charter member of the Grange. Mr. Hayward attended the one-room primary school on West Street located on what is now Roland Hebert's dairy farm. The schoolhouse has been moved back and now has become a part of the farm buildings of Mr. Hebert. From here he attended the grammar school in 1880 which was located at the corner of Middle St. and Potwine Lane.

B. & M. R. R.

Mr. Hayward remembers the struggle that took place in locating the B & M railroad Central Massachusetts division through Amherst. Mr. Morehouse, in his history states: "There was serious controversy among Amherst residents as to where the freight and passenger depots of the new road should be located. Some favored the site that was finally adopted, others a location considerably farther east, as a union station, with the New London Railroad." At a special town meeting in November, 1887 a vote was taken on the question. There were three hundred and twenty votes cast in favor of the present location and 175 for the Union station. Mr. Hayward well remembers the furor engendered at the meeting. He also

recalls that Henry M. Hills, an incorporator of the first company to receive a charter from the state for the railroad, was especially strong and vehement in his argument on location; we assume for the Union Station which would have been about three hundred yards South of the Hills Hat Shop. Town meetings were then held in the Palmer block, the location on which the Town Hall now stands. Mr. Hayward thinks we have lost something in substituting representative town government for the old town meeting, with which we must somewhat agree as he says, "I've just lost interest."

President McKinley at So. Hadley

In 1896 the first year of Mr. Hayward's married life he attended with his wife a celebration at South Hadley at the graduation of a niece of President McKinley, the latter coming to the graduation and honored by the college and South Hadley people. On Mr. Hayward's way home, a thunder shower arose and he drove the horse and buggy into a South Hadley barn and entered the house to await the end of the shower. The lightning struck the barn and fire followed. The dairyman in the barn was able to release horses and cattle on the lower floor but Mr. Hayward's horse was on an upper floor from which he could not be saved. Mrs. Hayward had taken the precaution to put her wedding hat under the buggy seat when the thunder shower threatened but did not take it with her to the house, thus horse, buggy and hat suffered the same fate; the house also burned. Mr. and Mrs. Hayward rode home with a neighbor who was traveling South Amherst way but shorn of all they had possessed in the morning, a sad ending to a day for the newly married couple who had planned a happy celebration.

Mr. Hayward tells us that his grandfather at the age of 80 split out and hand shaved shingles for the house and laid the same. These shingles were split from straight grained timber the required thickness, for shingle instead of sawing.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayward have ridden in the old stage coach which may now be seen in the basement of the Jones Library. He saw the first B & M Central Massachusetts train, he has seen the electric railway with the open and closed cars roll by his home, but now no more, the advent of the bicycle and the automobile, a revolution in farm machinery from the hand scythe and hand rake to the mowing machine and side delivery rake, from hand turning to the tedder, from hand fork pitching to the baling. Among not the least of life's changes is the telephone. If you question the above call 959-M4.



The Walter Hayward home today, owned by Hampshire College. (H.M.)



Sold and converted into a restaurant, the very old Mill Valley Grist Mill. (Jones Library)

OLD GRIST MILL AT MILL VALLEY RECALLS MEMORIES OF DISTANT PAST

(April 21, 1950)

Your correspondent noticed a sign last week "For Sale" tacked on the old grist mill at Mill Valley. Those of us who can hark back fifty or seventy-five years dislike to see what was, to that generation, a part of their every day life obliterated and thrown aside. This mill as it stands, weatherbeaten, sliding slowly, disintegrating, breaking down, deserted by those it has served in past generations brings a note of sadness and regret that there is no salvation.

This is an old landmark that because of modern methods has outlived its usefulness as a grist mill. In *Picturesque Hampshire*, a book compiled by Clifton Johnson of sixty years ago, we read "The saw mill and grist mill usually were the accompaniment of civilization. The saw mill still exists but the grist mills, the primitive New England grist mills, are rapidly disappearing in numbers."

Hope To Preserve Mill Building

Just what this grist mill building can be used for now is somewhat of a problem. There have been suggestions for converting it into a building where accommodations for a tea room and gift shop might be provided and still retain the charm of its historical life. A sign of "Ye Old Grist Mill" where fresh ground grains right off the mill stones, rye and wheat made into "bread", cornmeal into "johnnie cake", buckwheat into "flapjacks" might halt the hungry sightseeing traveler; or must it be left to fall apart, to be torn down, and cast asunder, becoming like the covered bridge but a memory of the historical past?

May Date Back to Early 1700's

Exactly when this grist mill on the South Amherst side of Fort River was established we do not know but it was most likely in the early part of the eighteenth century, as a grist mill was a most necessary adjunct to the living of our forefathers. In Hadley there were grist mills as early as 1661.

The saw mill, another most necessary equipment for the early settlers, usually accompanied the grist mill and in this instance was just above the grist mill on the opposite side of the river. This saw mill was where logs were sawed with the up and down vertical "jerky gash" saws before the circular saw was known.

We find an old deed dated 1783 at the Jones Library that carries us back to this time when six men — John Billings, Timothy Green, Samuel Moody, Nathaniel Dickinson, Jr., Debatiah Smith, and Reuben Smith — were the co-owners. These men deeded the mills to Captain Simeon Clark and his son Simeon Clark, Jr. The captain owned and lived in the large gambrel-roofed house just across the river which was built in 1780. The deed calls for one hundred and thirty pounds of lawful money in payment. "Of all interest in all the grist mill and grist mills and also the saw mill standing on Fort River in Amherst a little above the bridge between the first and second divisions of land in said Amherst, together with the dam, pond, stream, and all appurtenances to the same belonging and which we jointly and respectively enjoy or have a right to enjoy respecting the use, occupation and enjoyment of the same mill, dam, streams and pond and the whole of the grist mill built on the East Side of the river. Never to interest, molest, hinder or prevent them in the quiet and peaceful enjoyment and occupation of the same."

In the preamble to the deed just quoted it stated that the value of the property was represented by fourteen shares. These six men owned the fourteen shares. An enterprise of this size, the building of a dam, waterways, sawmill, and gristmills might have already called for a union of forces. It is reasonable to conclude that a group of men as shareholders built the first mills perhaps as early as 1703 when South Pleasant and West Streets were first surveyed for a roadway and people were coming into this section sorely needing both a grist and sawmill. We therefore think these mills were built and held as a shareholder enterprise transferring of shares to others from time to time until sole to Capt. Simeon Clark and his son in

1783, even this was shared 75% to father and 25% to the son.

Mrs. Melrose Paige, daughter of one of the later owners, in searching the deeds at Northampton found that the mills changed ownership many times after Capt. Simeon Clark and his son had owned them. In the year 1832 Samuel Church, David Dexter, Samuel Smith, Ethan Hubbard, Frank Palmer, and Enos Williams held the title to what was generally known as Clark's mills. Other names often appeared linked with some one of these as shareholders throughout the first seventy-five years of the eighteenth century.

However, the grist mill was here much earlier than 1783 for we read that the town voted to build a cart bridge in 1748 over Fort River "near the mill". We read further that there was a mill on Fort River previous to 1748 but the name of the owner was not recorded. These records signify that the grist and saw mills were established facts at an early date, and carry out the thought that grist mills and saw mills came first and bridges were secondary to the necessity of our forefathers.

Manufacturing at Mill Site

In the year of 1875 the late John Holley, father of Mrs. Paige bought these mills with all the water rights and appurtenances. At that time Flavel Gaylord, who was a farmer and lumber dealer, owned a one half interest in the mills. He lived just east of the mills in the large gambrel-roofed house of long ago architecture. The story that goes with this house is that it was built two years after the Simeon Clark house across the river, already referred to, and of the same architecture. However, it was built one foot larger in dimensions on its base that the owner might have one to exceed the size of his neighbor Clark's mansion.

Mr. Holley became the sole owner in 1875 perhaps for the first time in the history of the mills. Mr. Holley died in 1899 and the mill property was bought by the late Alfred Sanctuary in 1903. Mr. Sanctuary was the last owner who operated the grist and sawmills. At Mr. Sanctuary's death the property was bought by Mr. Boardman Bump of South Hadley, comptroller of Mt. Holyoke College. Mr. Bump is now offering the property for sale.

The structure built to cover the sawmill has already collapsed and the building on the river bank between the grist mill and sawmill is fast crumbling into decay. Here is where wood pumps were last manufactured fifty years ago and in 1869 children's sleighs to the number of 500 were manufactured per year. These were similar to our present day baby carriages but on runners instead of wheels.



A WINTER SCENE AT MILL VALLEY
AMHERST

Cement bridge at Mill Valley built around 1919. Attractive old iron bridge up stream, just northwest of Grist Mill, used for pedestrians now. (Lyman Thomson)

River Furnished Power

The river that furnished the power to run these mills still abides, as well as Capt. Simeon Clark's gambrel-roofed house on the west side of the river built in 1780 and the Gaylord house on the east bridge over the stream as related was built in 1748. The iron bridge north of the mill is still standing and was probably built about 1875 as the selectmen declared a policy in 1873 of replacing the wood bridges with iron. The one over Fort River on South East Street was built in 1881.



The imposing gambrel-roofed house of Flavell Gaylord, farmer, lumber dealer, selectman in the 19th century — now Lyman Thomson's. (L.T.)

The cement bridge now in use was constructed in 1920.

The name Fort has clung to the river throughout all history. Why was this river named Fort? Were there forts in Amherst along the river banks? Are questions that have continually arisen to be answered. Our "right hand supporter" delved into Judd's History of Hadley for information and came forth with the following: There was an important fort on the high ground in Hockanum at the mouth of the river as it enters the Connecticut. Mr. Judd says, "The river and meadows along this stream of water were named from this fort. Those in the fort obtained their water from the river below the bank."

The same river passes through Amherst at Mill Valley, with the name fort still clinging to its ever flowing waters, it having been given its name "Fort" by the early settlers in Hadley. The name Mill Valley was acquired because of the mills located in the river banks in the valley. Grist mills ground for 200 years wheat, rye, corn and oats for man and beast with the miller tending the mill in its clattering round. Till his hair was as white as the flour he ground is the picture we carry of the miller at our own Mill Valley. This is all silent now and the faithful service of the past is forgotten and no longer remembered. We shall await with interest what may take place now where once was located that which was of the most vital necessity to the life and prosperity of the people.

Old Home Day Is Held In Granville

Your correspondent attended an Old Home Day Sunday, August 27 in his old home town of Granville, Massachusetts. It is interesting to note that in 1805 a group of the church people, in this town organized with a preacher and deacons and started for the west, settling in Ohio, naming the place Granville, wishing to honor the town of their birth. Tradition has it that the journey was made by ox team but the route is unknown.

At the gathering Sunday a congratulatory message came from the mayor of Granville, Ohio, and an invitation to the celebration of their 150th anniversary in 1955, in recognition of the settlement of Granville, Ohio in 1805.

Out among the rugged hills of western Massachusetts, ten miles from Westfield, is the area comprising Granville, Massachusetts. Here is the Noble and Cooley drum factory of over 100 years standing, still mak-

ing drums for the old and young. The first high wheel bicycle that we have record of, to come to Granville was in 1885 when the Rev. J. M. Johnson was supplying the federated churches and was criticized for riding "one of them new fangled critters with two wheels which city folks call bycircuses and which no honest man can get astride". The federated churches of today comprise the Baptist and Congregational. It was out of the western part of this town and area among the hills of the Berkshire range, that three families pioneered into Amherst fifty years ago, that in the 1920's furnished the three deacons for the South Church.

September 1, 1950

Editor's note: The three deacons: Frank Ives, Truman Coe and W.H. Atkins.



Bill Atkins rides high wheel bike at annual July 4th parade.

The same kind of high wheel criticized by the pastor in Granville in 1865 as a "by circus."



Atkins' apple orchards in May blossom time 1970.

Lyman Thomson tending his bees at his Mill Valley home.
(L. Thomson)



Apple Orchards Once Ancient Lake Beach May 26, 1950

"Apples in stride" was the heading of an editorial in the *Sunday Republican* of May 21; a very appropriate one proved by the bud of the apple having withstood the February freeze and hurdled the May frost, to come marching on to the present glory of a full bloom. A mass of flowering beauty could be seen from a drive along West Street looking off to the east on the two "drumlins", relics of an overloaded glacier.

Notes from "Geological Imprints" by Bain and Meyerhoff, tell us that this elevated ridge of land cutting through South Amherst from Fort River to the Holyoke range was at one time an island in the Hadley lake, following the ice age of a million years or more ago and that "the beach of the ancient lake is well defined and forms the best land for the apple orchards of the valley."

This part of the great lake basin with its out cropping island in the center and its shore line on the foot hills to the east and south has become the known center of Hampshire County fruit culture. This is demonstrated on the gravelly beach by the orchard just east of the C.V.R.R. in South Amherst proved by the bloom as seen from the "Village Green"; also along the beach of the lake at the foothills of the Holyoke range.

Here was a large acreage of fruit trees in full bloom which was one of beauty from nearby and afar. While the orchardist loafed in the sunshine and dreamed of the harvest, the honey bee was "busy as a bee" carrying pollen from one tree to another, pollinating the flowers. Without the bee there would be no apples, bees and bees only are able to fertilize the flower. While the orchardist seeks to destroy other insects he embraces the bee regardless of the sting. His food does not have to be paid for, on the contrary the fruit grower pays him to come for a visit to his orchard.

The view one can have from College Hill looking down into the lake basin to the south beholding the great display of bloom on the island at its center and along the lake borders by the mountain reveals the truth of the geologist, "it forms the best land for the apple orchards of the valley." In most elevations the prospects are a full setting of apples which, with the intelligent and energetic care of the orchardist, should bring a full crop of this most popular fruit.



Spraying for one of many infestations, a Schoonmaker tries to cover the entire apple tree. Early 30's (R.S.)

Enlarged South Amherst Greenhouse, First Local Industry, Offers Spring All Year

Yes, spring is here. We catch it in the air, the chirp of the bird, the green of the lawn, the click of the mower, the rake of the yard, the plow of the garden, and the planting of the seed—all suggest life, hope, and courage. Yes, spring time surely is with us with all of its renewed life. The dandelion has already brought to the table, a "green" not excelled by and the cost of which is but the energy of digging from the ground. The cowslip, another "green" with a large yellow blossom, follows the dandelion in season, and can be freely had for the plucking. It is found in the Laurence swamp down the Depot Road.

The life bursting its bounds in the vegetable and fruit kingdoms is not all that is demonstrating new life. The insect world encased in shell and egg or hibernating through the win-

ter season are throwing off their protecting coats and coming forth with new vigor. An immense mud turtle sitting on the railroad crossing in South Amherst, in the middle of the highway, challenging both the railway engine and the automobile, made us realize that spring was not only here but that summer, too, was near at hand. We would not forget the woodchuck coming out of his burrow to nibble his breakfast from the early peas in the garden. The blooming of the Japanese cherry, the rock and soft maple demand our recognition that it is spring.

Can we now turn our attention to the place where all the seasons of the year are merged into that of spring?

The greenhouse across the road and but a few steps south of the church, filled with the cultivated

flower, adds its beauty to the list and brings forth spring the year around. This is a new enterprise for South Amherst, first entered into by Mr. Goman in 1937 by building his first greenhouse. He followed this venture with another of the same dimension in 1943. Here he has devoted much of the space to potted plants, which have been sold in the general market, both retail and wholesale. Here also has been the source of geranium plants for the annual children's day of the church school to which Mr. Goman has been a generous contributor. In 1949 the foundation of another house was laid, which is now complete, doubling the capacity of the first two. A glass run way is to be built this season connecting all three and using one heating plant. George McIntyre, of Bay Road, of long experience as a florist is in charge. Beside looking after 8,000 potted geraniums and 1,000 dozen pansies he takes care of a good trade in corsages and floral pieces. The new house will be devoted to the



The Earl Goman (Thompson) house. In 1972 the home of the president of Hampshire College, before its remodeling. (Polly Longworth)

growing of cut flowers such as carnations, snap dragons, and chrysanthemums. We welcome this new industry the first one of this type of commercial size ever located in South Amherst. This is where, when the longing for spring is strong, we may find it the year around.



Across the street, the (Reed, Wentworth) MacLeod house, probably built 1806. (H.M.)

Mount Norwottuck Poultry Farm



Jack Schoonmaker trapnesting "Pureline" White Rocks.



Foreman Al Brace keeps a watchful eye on things.



Ann Schoonmaker and a "Pureline" White Rock male. He looks like any other White Rock but genetically he's different.



(E.S.P.)

From the mountain side, the John Schoonmaker poultry farm in its early days. Mt. Pollux to the north.



Rhode Island Reds, in the poultry boom of the 40's, at F. Brainard Lyman's. (B.L.)



Super deluxe laying and breeder house. The building is of cinder block construction, is heated, ventilated and has all labor saving plans for feeding and watering.

The total number of White Rock breeders on this farm is about 2,000. There are, however, three South Amherst poultrymen who are working with him—kind of satellite farms. These are F. Brainard Lyman, A. P. Stedman, Jr. and W. C. Atkins. They carry only White Rocks. Chick output is about 100,000 for the year plus many cases of hatching eggs.



Win Cowles and his team, Dan and Chubb, pulling a farm sled in winter. House in background. (Mrs. Win Cowles)

Bill Atkins and Chas. Backe doing some winter work with wood and the ax. About 1934.



Using the tractor to clear the "Dana" driveway of a deep snow. About 1947. (W.C.A.)



Cows in the barnyard, let out for water in 1928.

Dick and Ruth Ann Schoonmaker try out the pony and sled. (R.S.)



Helping Cliff Tiffany get started with the milking at Grandpa Atkins!





"The Canning Lab" established for canning produce in glass jars. About 1927. (H.M.)



Interior of C.W. Miller's canning laboratory. (Charlotte M. McChesney)



Lila Tiffany, lighting the pilot to the Stanley Steamer. Around 1924

(Courtesy Lila Tiffany)



Watermelon time!
About 1927. (W.C.A.)

The beauty of South Amherst and its farms — Win Shumway's market garden. Potwine Lane. (Kirk Elliott)



Jerseys at the fence, east of the barn.





A lost scene, unloading loose hay by a power fork, Cliff on the truck, Bill in the barn. Grandma entertains a grandchild. 1944.



Arthur Dimock beside some of the apples sorted for sale at the Atkins garage — mid '50's. (E.D.)



In the late 20's — corn in the fields, apples on the trees, and giant maples in full leaf around the farm homes of So. East Street.

Kinfolk and guests every Thanksgiving in N.E. In front of Aunt Mary Miller's. About 1931. (H.M.)



In a gay mood, Dad and Mother Schoonmaker who added much to the community. About 1934 (R.C.S.)



Three generations with advent of Chandler Atkins.
About 1948. (W.C.A.)



Naomi in her flower garden
1940.



Grandpa A. reading a bedtime story to Kirk, 1946.



Enjoying life together, about 1949.

Two grandchildren watch Grandma empty the
vacuum cleaner bag.



A last outdoor picture of W.H.
Atkins, east of the barn. Nov. 1952.



SOUTH AMHERST WATERWAYS UNIQUE: GO NORTH AGAINST GENERAL FLOW

(June 23, 1950)

South Amherst cannot be distinguished because of her waterways; however, she is unique in that all of her streams flow in a northerly direction, which is in contrast to the general flow of water in the Connecticut Valley.

The supply of water for Fort River as it enters the Mill Valley district comes from opposite directions, joining forces just east of the bridge over Fort River at South East Street. The south branch comes from the mountainous district in north Belchertown whose water flows south down into the Dwight section and then crosses in a westerly direction over the Belchertown boundary into the town of Amherst at the foot of the Holyoke range. The waters here are nearly on a dead level to where they enter Fort River four miles north! However, there is enough down grade to the north so that it has cut a snake-like waterway through the Laurence swamp (called the Great Swamp by the early settlers) to its destination.



View south west of the Plum Brook crossing on Middle Street, 1972. (H.M.)

It is in this brook that small boys have their swimming noie well back from the Pomeroy Lane roadway hidden by the vigorous growing alder bush; also at this point of crossing the highway is the place where Mr. Edgar Poor has a well built swan house and water impounded for the swans' use. Here may be seen the graceful birds sailing about, apparently without effort, an ever interesting sight. In April we find the small boy with fish rod on the brook's banks, returning home boastful of his prowess in getting a "bite."

Hop Brook at Depot Road, the former site of the swimming hole until W.P.A. work etc. affected the channel. (H.M.)

Fort River itself originates in the north easterly section of Amherst, and is made up in part from the overflow of the two Amherst supply reservoirs, the Atkins reservoir, partly in Shutesbury and the reservoir in Pelham whose waters come down Amethyst Brook.

These waters unite making Fort River which flows in a south westerly direction on its way to Mill Valley. Hop Brook enters this river near the bridge over Fort River at South East Street. It is said that when the dam was intact at Mill Valley boats were often rowed to the South East Street bridge on the silent secluded waters of the river, a waterway beautified by the overhanging branches of the maple and elm, "A lovers' lane, indeed" very appropriately adjoining the Groff recreation park which is now being developed.

At this point fifty years ago it was more often called Freshman River. Quote from Clifton Johnson's **Historic Hampshire**, "A ducking in it was understood to be a sure cure for the 'freshness' of any Amherst Collegian." The stream furnished water power for a grist and saw mill which had far more to do with the welfare of South Amherst than any other water way.

Several small brooks whose sources are among the foothills of Holyoke range enter the valley from the mountain, crossing the Bay Road in a northerly direction. The most important of

these is Plum Brook that goes under the road just east of the corner at West Street. This stream was no doubt forded for many years by the stage coach travelers on their way to and from Boston over the Bay Path which was first known as the Brookfield Road. A good gravel roadway from both sides in and out of the brook can be seen today, where the stage coach horses might enter and quench their thirst. We do not find that this stream ever had a saw mill on its banks. It runs northerly and crosses Potwine and Pomeroy Lanes and thence across West Street near the Amherst Apple Storage into Fort River.

Several rivulets that get their supply from the South Mountain cross the Bay Road at intervals along its length to the Belchertown line. The two that cross near Middle Street corner unite on their way north to Plum Brook but stop long enough on their journey to furnish power for a saw mill and cider mill as late as 1890, also as early as 1863 for the making of pumps, shingles, and broomsticks. The Merrick brothers who owned the waterway and pond cut and furnished ice from the pond for the farmers' milktanks. Any delay in the seasonal harvest of the ice would be explained by their wish to have the ice get "ripe." Near the corner of Mechanic Street and Bay Road is a waterway whose supply base is well back in the ravines of the mountain, that is a never failing stream which, authenticated by those now living, furnished power for a saw mill and the manufacture of children's sleighs, wagons, tip carts, and wheel barrows 100 years ago. This brook next crosses South East Street where it stopped long enough to furnish power for the manufacture of baby carriages. Although this was 60 years ago the stream is still known as "Baby Carriage" brook. Years before these factories were built but after the brook had crossed South East Street into the low land, our forefathers turned the waters directly north across their cow pasture lands, a distance of one mile, into Hop Brook, digging a channel six feet wide and three feet deep, thus furnishing water for the livestock, a herculean task today if undertaken with the tools of the eighteenth century.

The next waterway of importance is the one that crosses the Bay Road near the fork of the road, leading to Belchertown. Here a steam saw mill was set up. Charles Thayer, of the Bay Road relates that he was told by his father that the engine and boiler were taken from a freighter in Boston Harbor and transported by rail to Dwight. It was here unloaded onto a sled, then drawn on the snow by oxen to the setting by the brook, not far from 1860. The timber in Mr. Thayer's barn was sawed at this mill. This same stream crossed the road and furnished water for brick making during the early part of the 19th century.

Jemima Kerr, about 1935, in front of the old bridge at Hop Brook, Depot Rd. (J.K.F.)



The last brooklet to be mentioned is the one crossing the Bay Road at the foot of Harris Mountain Road.

It was at this point that the brick house stands known in the early days as Bridgman Tavern. The present owner, Mr. Ernest Markert, has studied available records and places the date of its building as about 1816.

It was here the stage coaches stopped that the travelers might assuage their thirst. At the foot of the dooryard hill a log watering trough caught water from the brook in readiness to quench the thirst of the coach horses, that rumbled the coach over the rough roads. It is from this brook that water is taken today for the refrigeration plant of the Markert Apple Storage.

Thus goes the story of the waterways of South Amherst. Once the bottom of a great lake receiving its supply from the never failing springs of Holyoke Range and then continuing in a northerly direction into Fort River and on to the Connecticut, they have run their course to the benefit of man and beast.

PAVING OF ENTIRE HISTORIC BAY ROAD WILL BE COMPLETED DURING SUMMER

(July 21, 1950)

The people of South Amherst have reason to be particularly interested in the work that Belchertown with state aid and supervision is doing on the Bay Road just over the Amherst line leading to Belchertown. Last year Amherst with county and state aid covered with a hard top the last section of Bay Road within her borders. This completed a hard top road from Northampton to Belchertown center with the exception of the short section of 3,000 feet just referred to across the Amherst-Belchertown line. When this is completed the hard surface will be complete from South Amherst as well as from Northampton to Belchertown and the washboard gravel road will be no more.

This section of highway is one winding in and out in snake fashion through the woods making a road at the easterly tip of the Mount Holyoke range from the north side of the slope to the south. Near the roadside bank was the shore line to the great Hadley Lake that covered South Amherst as indicated by the stone walls. Geologists tell us that these walls, encountered as one climbs out of the great lake bowl, are an indication of the shore line of the lake.

This road easterly from the Connecticut River was first called Bay Path and we expect it was but a path as wagons were not the first means of transportation. The word "Bay" to our forefathers meant Massachusetts Bay and Bay Path meant a path leading to Massachusetts Bay. With an improved way in later history, when transportation was by stage coach and wagon, Bay Path became known as the Bay Road, which name it has continued to carry to the present time. This road extends from its intersection with the Amherst Road at the Connecticut River Bridge easterly to its intersection with the Amherst-Belchertown Road about one mile north of Belchertown center.



Facing Mt. Norwottock on Bay Rd., a lovely house, complete with its accompanying barn of the 19th century, the former Pearl Thayer place, now Wentworth's, 1972. (H.M.)

From a writing of the late Mrs. Nellie Ives, with the heading "History of the Old Bay Road," we quote: "When the Pilgrims settled Hadley, in going through the wilderness they naturally followed Indian trails and to reach Boston they followed Bay Path. For nearly seventy-five years it was only a path widening by use, it is true, but not called a road. Most of the travel was on horseback, but these settlers were orderly and progressive and in 1732 the Bay Road was laid out as a highway by a jury of 12 men under Ebenezer Pomeroy, sheriff. This was the first well-marked highway passing through the limits of 'Hadley Third Precinct', which is now Amherst. The Bay Road passed through Belchertown and in Brookfield joined 'the great road' connecting New York and Boston, making a link in the great chain of highways connecting the east and the west."



Nellie Ives (Mrs. Frank) (P.T.I.)

When our forefathers traveled westerly from Belchertown on the Bay Road and came out of the dark woods over the winding path into South Amherst, the opening of the great Connecticut valley lay before them. Here after a tedious journey from Boston over the hills and the corduroy roads of the swamps, they looked across the valley rich with the soil from the lake sediment of a million years, the Eldorado of their hopes.

The first road to cross South Amherst was the Bay Road and it furnished one of the links in the chain from Northampton to Boston. Along its way were many taverns for the accommodation of the traveler. The Bridgman Tavern, now Mr. Markert's home, was the first one encountered. As the traveler came out of the woods into South Amherst, it must have been a welcome sight, where refreshments and rest for both man and beast could be secured. The road is now being widened and soon will be surfaced with tar or asphalt, filling in the last link of a hard surfaced road between Northampton and Belchertown, shorter by a distance of two and one half miles than that through Amherst. Many will now take this shorter cut where there is less travel and enjoy the varied scenes along the path that once our forefathers traveled on business and pleasure to and from the Massachusetts Bay.

THIRD FIRE AT OLD SOUTH AMHERST WAREHOUSE IS PUT OUT IN TIME

August 25, 1950

The fire department was called last week to a smouldering fire at the old warehouse building in South Amherst situated by the Boston and Maine Railroad. The fire chief reported that a booster tank of water checked the fire; if more water had been needed a good supply is ever present between the two railroads. Upon this lagoon there is a profusion of white pond lilies now in bloom, that make a bright spot, close by the site of the passenger station that burned in 1923, now a forgotten area.



The Boston & Maine R.R. station, Amherst. Mary Wheelock of So. Amherst telegraph and ticket agent. (Jones Library)

The building just referred to was erected on land bought from the town of Amherst in 1895 by the grain and feed merchants, the late James E. Merrick, it being a parcel out of the old town farm lying next to the switch track of the B. and M.R.R. Mr. Merrick erected upon this land a small warehouse and two coal sheds. This warehouse was supply depot for his retail trade at the store on the green and bulk supplies to the farmers.

Thomas, the cat, of regulation size and proven ability was stationed in the building as watchman whose main dessert was supposed to be the furry thieves that hid among the bags of grain. The farmer needing coal was given the keys to the coal sheds, shoveled his own and weighed it at the public scales at the green.

F.E. Ledoyt of Thayer Street tells us that there were several dances held in the warehouse building when it was completed and before its use for grain. An organ for the occasion was loaned by the late Mrs. Edwin Marsh. Her daughter, Mrs. Mabel Harris of Sunset Avenue well remembers playing the instrument accompanied with the fiddle of Charles H. Thayer of Bay Road.

Because Mr. Merrick bought in 1905 the Seth Reed grain business in Amherst, in addition to the one in South Amherst, much of the grain was warehoused in Amherst and the South Amherst warehouse was little used and finally discarded entirely. The property changed owners in later years to one Benjamin Strcyeski. However, as he departed to parts unknown to the assessors, the taxes have not been paid for some time. The town now has taken possession of the property.

The fire last week was the third in the history of the building, but each time it has been discovered in season to save it from total destruction. This time discovery was made by the train dispatcher of the freight on the B. and M. who saw the smouldering fire at the base of the building. He called the Greenfield office and from there the message was relayed to the Amherst Fire Department. The floor and floor joists have been removed by unknown hands and the fire started in a similar way.

However all this may be, the building still stands a silent reminder to the business of the horse and buggy days of fifty years ago.

LOGTOWN RD. BECAME DEPOT RD. 1887;
So. East St. Built in 1703

(October 13, 1950)

When South East Street was laid out in 1703 by our forefathers there was no provision made for a road to the East into the forests that covered the Belchertown hills. However, in later years as North Belchertown became settled and a highway constructed between Amherst and Belchertown this Log Town (now Depot) road was planned as a cross link between the South East Street in South Amherst and the Amherst Belchertown highway. This interesting road the traveler may follow from the Village green in an easterly direction across the Lawrence swamp and the two railroads, (Boston & Maine and Central Vermont) over the Amherst Belchertown line to its intersection with the Main highway between Amherst and Belchertown, near Pansy Park Inn. In the early days this was called Log Town Road, but when the Boston and Maine built the railway line in 1887 crossing the highway at South Amherst one mile East of the village and built a station the name of the road was changed to Depot.

The Central Vermont never had a station more than an open shelter boarded on three sides. A "stop" signal was so arranged that the would-be passenger could set the signal that the engineer might stop the train, that the conductor might take on the traveler. As Depot Road crossed both the Boston and Main and Central Vermont tracks which lay parallel one to another, it climbed up a steep incline, on to the delta several acres in extent of sand and gravel, that had been deposited there by the wash from the Pelham and Belchertown hills, some million years ago. From this vantage point the superb beauty of the Holyoke Range can be viewed.



View from Atkins' orchards from "over east," across Lawrence Swamp, Mt. Pollux, to the Range - 1930 (R.C.S.)

From the road, at one's feet, is seen a great gully that has been washed out of this delta of sand and gravel down to the low level of the valley. It is here that the gully receives all articles that the community has ceased to value.



Early train into Amherst, 1887. Barnes photo (Jones Library)

A yard for the storing of railroad ties was maintained by the Boston & Maine for their use close by Depot Road where chestnut ties were delivered for inspection and sale, from the South Mountain forests. There was not too much excitement on this road of one and one-half miles without a house until the railway station was built and passenger and freight trains rolled by to and fro, from Boston. On July first in 1895, or there abouts, the station burned to the ground, the fire caused by 4th of July fire works stored in the station building. This caused premature excitement among the boys depending on their supply from this source. The station was rebuilt and



The "Norwottuck" Railroad station at South Amherst with sheds in rear. Burned 1923. (C

activities resumed their normal course until another startling event took place in the station. A household employee became disappointed and despondent over a love affair and the tragedy of a suicide by the use of a revolver was the result. The girl was taken to the Town Farm at the corner of Depot Road and South East Street where in the care of the town warden, a doctor was called, but the girl was not able to rally. The second burning of the station in the small hours of the night in 1923 aroused all the sleepy heads of the village by the continual blowing of the whistle of the freight engine which appeared at that time. By the time the Amherst fire department and citizens were aroused and had appeared the station was no more. This was not rebuilt but a passenger service was discontinued and the depot passenger car was rolled away and the last vestige of railway service was removed.

THURSDAY CLUB 50 YEARS OLD

(October 13, 1950)

The fiftieth anniversary observance of the Thursday Club took place yesterday, October 12. The anniversary program was in charge of Miss Mary and Miss Lena Pomeroy. The club met with Mrs. Marjorie MacLeod, who served as hostess. She was assisted by Mrs. Alice Holt, Mrs. Elizabeth Holt, and Mrs. Edith Shumway.

The original membership of the club, organized in 1900, was thirty members. Of these thirty charter members there are ten now living. They are: Mrs. Emma Sanderson, Mrs. Marie Merrick, Mrs. Carrie Merrick, Miss Edith Dickinson, Miss Mary Armstrong, Miss Carrie Thayer, Mrs. Mary Wheelock, Miss Isadora Dickinson, Mrs. Margaret Read Richardson of New York and Mrs. Etta Merrick Pomeroy. None of these had a 'Mrs.' affixed to their names when they became charter members. All of these representatives of the original group except Mrs. Richardson were present yesterday to join in the festivities.

Miss Minnie Dana of Mount Holyoke College, a school teacher, a church worker, organist and a leader in community betterment projects, was the organizer of this group.

While teaching in Belchertown in the late '90's, Miss Dana became a member of the J.G. Holland Club. Mr. Holland was born in Belchertown and was the editor and author of historical writings whose name is commemorated by 'Holland Glen' at Dwight. Miss Dana came home from her Belchertown teaching in 1900 to care for her mother, bringing to South Amherst the inspiration to have a similar group in South Amherst.

Miss Dana's strong personality and enthusiasm easily found a group that would be glad to come together for mutual improvement and to gain knowledge of the authors and writings of the past and present, and to keep posted on current events of the day.

The Misses Pomeroy have copies of the programs of the meetings of the club for the past fifty years. A similar number of programs are on file in the Jones Library.

Guest nights with leap year rules in order were looked forward to when there were a number of high school seniors or those just out of school represented in the club.

The writer well remembers one he attended on a winter evening at a neighbor's home. A hostess was at the door to take the horse and sleigh to shelter. When the festivities were over the horse was found with a rope slip noose around his neck, fortunately not tight enough to cause strangulation, but the memory still lingers and the words 'guest night' bring to mind realistic life in more than one way.

Guest night has not been observed for some years. Perhaps because of the large number now in the group, perhaps because all but nine now have the 'Mrs.' attached to their names and guest night has lost its sparkle.

The original membership fee of the club was twenty-five cents. It is now a dollar. There are fourteen meetings scheduled for the year, the first was October 12; the last will be April 26. The monthly dates of meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Miss Dana, the club's founder, died in 1943, but she left behind in this organization a living memorial. An organization which has functioned for fifty years, with complete records of each year's activities. Certainly the club must be founded on something worthwhile.



Minnie Dana as a very young woman. A college graduate, teacher, and founder of the Thursday Club in 1900. (H.M.)

On the fly leaf of this years calendar we find the club's motto, a Biblical quotation which if abbreviated would read: "Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The Club now numbers 80 members and membership is open to anyone interested in the club's programs. The club has ever been interested in community betterment. Through their interest Professor Davis of the U of M came down and visited individual homes, and suggested landscaping of the yards, which was quite generally followed. The club paid for the transplanting of an elm opposite the library in the tree belt on the common. It has also sponsored many other worthwhile projects.

The club has published in their booklet the following list of officers for the year 1950-51:

President, Mrs. Inez Swan; first vice president, Mrs. Gertrude Collins; secretary, Mrs. Beverly Neylon; treasurer, Mrs. Mary Colby.

Executive committee: Mrs. Irene Critchett, Mrs. Frances Wentworth, Mrs. Rose Elaine Schoonmaker.

Program committee: Mrs. Alice Thayer, Mrs. Jean Hawley, Mrs. Stella Blair, Mrs. Doris Coe.

Nominating committee: Mrs. Christine Towson, Mrs. Helen Groff, Mrs. Edith Gray.

Flower Committee: Mrs. Barbara Bastow, Miss Mary Pomeroy.

Visiting committee: Mrs. Harriet Hutchings, Mrs. Gertrude Tufts.

Ways and means committee: Mrs. Margaret Hassan, Mrs. Elizabeth Holt, Mrs. Charlott Harvey.

Delegate to Western Massachusetts Woman's Club, Mrs. Phyllis Simmons.

APPLE CROP REPORT

(October 27, 1950)

The production of apples for which South Amherst is quite well known lends special interest at this time to an apple crop report. The growing of this fruit in a commercial way was given a great impetus in 1908 when the Bay Road fruit orchards were established by Professors Waugh and Sears of the State College.

Mr. Graves, former owner of the Ernest Markert orchard, and the late G.H. Atkins had rather large plantings as early as 1900, but around the year 1910 the fever permeated every farmer in South Amherst and there were no less than 20 new orchard plantings aside from those already mentioned. Ten of these orchards to date have been abandoned. However, even now there is a production of 75,000 to 100,000 bushels which is not far from the amount produced last year.



Sorting apples in the '30's in the orchard, Dick Schoonmaker and helpers. Apples to go to West St. Cold Storage. (R.C.S.)

October 20, 1950

South Amherst people were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. U.G. Groff, who died October 13 in South Carolina, while on his way to Florida with his wife. Mr. Groff was a long time resident of South Amherst where he carried on a successful dairy business. After selling this business Mr. Groff made his home in Plainville, Hadley. Both Mr. and Mrs. Groff were members of the South Church and active supporters of the organization. Mr. Groff's moving out of town did not change his interest in the home church and community in which he had lived for so many years. Mr. Groff's interest in boys was shown by his organization of the first scout troop in Amherst. His foresight and public spirit were evidenced by the gift to the town of a tract of land in 1934 for a park. The land is situated on the banks of the Fort River. His presence at gatherings and on the streets of his home town will be missed by many.

Also of West Street, E.G. Brown a poultryman, and a team of horses about 1928. (Courtesy Wendell Brown)

Last year there was sufficient help with which to gather the crop on time, while this year, even at an increase in pay, it was hard to secure. A certain proportion of the crop goes to market at the time of picking but the bulk of the apples go into cold storage.

One can easily see that to pick, grade and market a crop of one-half the size mentioned above, in three weeks would require a large number of helpers. Even now we find between 100 and 150 men and women busy daily in the orchards through the two weeks of the McIntosh harvest.

The early, over all estimate of the U.S. production of apples this year was 120,000,000 bushels, against a 133,000,000 bushel crop in 1949. The Massachusetts crop is fully up to last years 3,800,000 bushels, although in some sections of the country there are crops less than the size of 1949's.

Fruit is selling in market at about 10 percent less in price than last year at this time; this is appreciated by those with a limited pocket book but not by the grower who is doing business at a loss.

South Amherst growers are especially fortunate in having two large apple storages at their service for the storing and keeping of the fruit in prime condition. The Wentworth Apple Storage on West Street and the Markert Storage on the Bay Road both have a 40,000 bushel capacity.

The fruit this year is superior in color and texture to that of last year. Aside from the early drop aggravated by lack of help it was well taken care of, in its prime condition.



The "Markert" Cold Storage today on Bay Road, remodeled into an atmosphere controlled storage by H. Atkins. (H.M.)



MAIL DELIVERIES IN SOUTH AMHERST VARIED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS; STARTED ON STAGES (October 27, 1950)

In a recent issue of the Journal there was an item recognizing the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. F. Brainard Lyman. This caused us to look back to the date of his marriage and to the time of his first contract with the U.S. government to carry the rural mail. This contract was made in 1920, making Mr. Lyman a veteran of thirty years of mail service. If the Lyman's wedding anniversary is worth mention, this thirty year service of Mr. Lyman is also deserving of recognition.

In 1920 Mr. Lyman took over the mail route from the previous incumbent, Earle Howlett, and he has been at the job continuously since that time.



F. Brainard Lyman pictured with one day's mail for rural delivery (B.L.)

Going back still further we find that the first post office in Amherst was authorized in 1806. Mail came in once a week by stage until 1825 when there were three mails a week. The South Amherst mail was distributed at the Amherst post office until an office was established in South Amherst in 1841.

The late F.L. Pomeroy remembered when mail was carried by stage coach from Amherst to Palmer by the Bay Road and there making connections with the Boston and Albany Railroad. The railroad was first opened to travel on October 1, 1839. The late J.C. Hammond of Northampton told of the four horse stage passing his father's farm on South East Street. The Hammond farm is now the Atkins farm. We judge by this that the route to Amherst from the Bay Road must have been over South East Street, Shay Street and South Pleasant Street.



Stage coach that once carried the mail. Walter Hayward of West St. rode in it. Now at Jones Library. (Jones Library)

We assume that when the Amherst — Belchertown Railroad (now the Central Vermont) was opened for business in 1853, and made connections with the Boston and Albany at Palmer, that the stage coach business fell off and the mail as well as the passengers took the railroad.

At this change in transportation the mails came to Amherst twice a day, one from the north in the morning and one from the south in the afternoon. When the Boston and Maine Railroad was built in 1887 mail was also taken on the morning Boston train.

The mail bags with the incoming mail were thrown from the mail car to the ground as the train sped by the station. The outgoing mail was hung to an outreaching arm or crane by the track, and was snatched by a similar crane on the mail car door. The post man or his agent then picked up the mail and brought it over the lonesome Depot Road to the post office. The first postmaster was one Hiram Allen. There have been eight other postmasters since Mr. Allen. The office travelled from house to house following the postmaster until 1881 when it was set up in the brick building on the green, with C.A. Shaw as postmaster.

James Merrick followed Mr. Shaw and the late Charles King took over the office in 1909, maintaining it in the same building until 1927. At that time Mr. King moved the office to his private home on South East Street. It remained here until 1932, when the order came through from the government to close the office. From then on all South Amherst mail would



Facing the church, the red brick village store, (opened in 1842) and post office (off and on from 1841) to 1927. Grain was available from rear right. About 1910. (Courtesy Clara Dwight)

be routed through the Amherst office and be delivered by a rural mail carrier. Rural mail service had been conducted in the outskirts of South Amherst since 1904. The office was maintained until 1932 for the benefit of the more centrally located citizens of South Amherst. As the salary of the postmaster was dependent on the stampage an effort was made by many to put outgoing mail through the local office to enhance the postmaster's pay.

The route established in 1904 has been faithfully maintained through the years. For a term of thirty years Mr. Lyman has served his patrons on this route delivering the mail through spring mud and winter snow. The best wishes of these patrons on route number one will continue to travel with him in his daily round.



The house of a village benefactor, Lieut. Enos Dickinson, of the early 19th century. (Richard Shurbert)

A painting of a lovely residence, the Hubert Barton home. (C.D.)



A quieter day . . . Watering tub for horses; weighing scales for horse-drawn loads of hay and Merrick's grain etc. read by storekeeper. Church, parsonage and Dwight house with store at right.



A sketch of the (Oren Williams) Morell residence, east of the Common and north of the Munson Memorial Library, destroyed by fire 1898. (C.D.)



The 100th Anniversary of the So. Congo Church, 1924, with the following families identifiable: Chas. King, Ives, Schoonmaker, Hayward, Pomeroy, Adams, Wheelock, Dana, Kerr, Atkins, Howlett, Lyman. Barnes photo. (Courtesy Jemima Kerr French)

SOUTH AMHERST CHURCH TO CELEBRATE
125TH ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND;
OCCUPIES A BIG PLACE IN LIFE OF COMMUNITY

(November 10, 1950)
and
(November 17, 1950)

The first church in Amherst was in the year 1735, then followed the Second Church at East Amherst in 1783, the South Amherst in 1825, and the North Amherst in 1826. The long distance to travel for the South Amherst people to the church in the center, although it had been their place of worship for ninety years, gave them the incentive to build a church in their own village and in 1824 a move was made to that end. This desire was not the outgrowth of any religious feud or controversy, but the natural desire of the residents in an outlying district to be able to enjoy church privileges of their own.

To look back 125 years is a long way, yet the writer's memory travels over one half of it to the year 1825 when the South Amherst Church building was erected and dedicated as a home for the newly organized church body.

It was on May 31, 1824 at the "South East Middle School-house" (which was the one by the village green) that a group of interested people met and voted that "it is the wish of this meeting that a meeting-house be built and a society formed in the south part of Amherst, that a committee be appointed to prepare and circulate subscriptions to ascertain how much will be given to build said meeting-house, and how many persons will join the society". A committee was named, subscriptions obtained, a South Congregational Society organized with 93 members to build a church and the following year, in 1825, a church was built, patterned after the Greenwich Church and dedicated to the use of the people for religious worship.

The site for the meeting-house was given by Deacon Nathaniel Dickinson, who owned the farm bordering on the village green, now owned by W.H. Atkins, out of which came not only the church site but more recently as a gift by the present owner the Munson Library building site.

A fence was built about the church building the next year. In 1843 the auditorium floor was built across at the level of the gallery and the body seats raised to this new height. Eight years later the lower floor was partitioned and stoves procured. It would seem that they were without stoves to this date. The generous gift of blinds to the church by Enos Dickinson in 1849 gave an attractive distinction that few buildings had at that time.

We find in the original records that Nutting and Goss agreed that, if the subscribers would draw the stone for the underpinning and the steps, they would build the church for \$3,300, a meeting-house upon the plan of construction similar to the meeting-house lately built in Greenwich. The trimming for the pulpit and communion table was to be furnished by the subscribers. The house was to be completed by January 1, 1826. We take note here that we have resident in our village Mrs. C.W. King, great-granddaughter of the George Nutting who was the builder of the church, and three of the great-great-grandchildren, Mrs. Kathleen King Hayes, Donald J. King, and Sherwin D. King.

South Congregational Church Amherst, Mass.

Rev. Archibald Kerr, Pastor



Old Home Sunday

August 27, 1922

(William C. Atkins)

The church, standing midst maples. Horsesheds, built 1849, in background.

Evidently the construction of the building proceeded satisfactorily for we read: "In September 1825 a committee was appointed to arrange for the dedication of the building and the installation and ordination of the first minister, the Rev. Horace Chapin to be the pastor of the new church." The day set for this was November 3, 1825, one day of the previous week to be devoted to fasting and prayer. The membership of the newly organized church was 46 in number, made up of 31 from the Second Congregational Church, one from Granby and one from Belchertown.

We regret there is no account of the exercises of the dedication day but we do have the names of the churches and ministers attending.

In 1853 there developed the "unholy" quarrel about the singing in the sanctuary. Although the controversy began in the choir, it soon grew to such proportions that the whole church was involved. All efforts toward reconciling the two parties were unavailing despite the advice of councils and men of high position to whom appeal was made. This rancor existed within the church for some time even to maintaining preaching in the two audience rooms at the same hour to accommodate the two factions.



"MISSIONARY DISHES" were used for the first time in a year during a meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of South Amherst yesterday. Left to right at the prettily arranged table bearing the dishes are Mrs. Charles Miller, Missionary Committee chairman; Rev. James Taylor, speaker; Miss Barbara Ives, granddaughter of Mrs. Ives, in whose memory the meeting was held; Mrs. Robert Adair, Mrs. Philip Ives and Mrs. William Ives, granddaughters.

Feb. 22, 1950

At this time we find the great temperance movement was already underway. The feeling at Amherst College was such that in 1827 a temperance society was formed with 97 pledged total abstinence members.

The first society sponsored by a church in Amherst was the Amherst South Parish Total Abstinence Society organized in 1835. East and North Amherst followed in 1842 and the center in 1846. The South Amherst Society was reorganized soon after its formation into the South Amherst Washingtonian Total Abstinence Society of Hampshire County, thus linking themselves with the Washingtonian temperance movement. There was much interest in the liquor question among both the church and townspeople during the next forty years as shown by the many temperance organizations established. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union came along in 1876 to which the church lent its support.

At another time there was a dispute as to who should make the selection of Sunday School helps, the superintendent or the pastor and this required the calling of a church council to decide the issue. We can see by these two instances the expression of the strong will and positive nature of the men of those days.

In the sixties the first reed organ was purchased. We expect stringed instruments were used previous to this, for in 1830 it was voted to allow Aaron Ferry 67 cents for cash paid for violin strings and at another date to pay Lucius Dickinson \$1.49 for bass viol strings purchased by him.

In 1883 a major job of repairs to the auditorium was made, new ceiling, remodeling of pews, and new cushions. It was also voted to provide suitable seats for the choir in the northeast corner of the auditorium on an enlarged pulpit platform with a new pulpit. We expect that the old straight backed pews had been used to this date. The remodeled pews are the ones now in use.



The Green or Common before the watering tub was added, circa 1900. Possibly before alteration and moving of parsonage. Note pine tree, later blown down in 1938 hurricane. (C.D.)

Further changes came in the next ten years when the stair cases were widened and rebuilt, the stoves with their long smoke pipes running the complete length of the church were taken out and hot air furnaces installed. We have already spoken of the first reed organ in the 60's but now a pipe organ was desired which in 1910 replaced the old organ. Water came along next from the Amherst Water Company and replaced the hand power for the organ bellows. Ten years later the church tower was retimbered at a cost of \$750.

In 1830 it was voted to raise money for the church expenses by the pledge system with free seats, but six years later the vote was changed to sell the pew sittings at auction. The writer well remembers that the rear seats of the auditorium were the most desired, the yearly rental of which sold at the highest figure. The families with less money were forced along up

toward the minister. The same desire to sit at ease, a safe distance from the fiery darts of the preacher holds true today. The second seat from the front which was well ahead of the others was set aside for use of the town farm inmates at a fee which the town paid. Thus the town showed a desire to have her unfortunate have the benefits of a free gospel. The second seat from the front in the body pews and opposite the one for the town farm inmates was set aside for the minister's family, thus showing no class distinction. The auction system was used until 1900 when the pledge system of securing funds for the church maintenance and free pews became the accepted way.

In 1840 it was voted that the choir singers might occupy the back gallery. It is not stated where in the church they had been seated previously but in 1883 they moved from the gallery of the church by the pulpit.



A millinery class, 1921. Seated, l to r: Mrs. T. W. Dickinson, Mrs. Warner; Standing: Mesdames Nellie Ives, Smith, Grace King, Inez Parker, and Clough. (P.T.I.)



The Rev. and Mrs. Archibald Kerr, soon after their arrival in South Amherst, with their family; left to right: Jean, Bessie, Ruth, Alice, and Jemima. about 1924, Barnes photo (J.K.F.)

(May 27, 1949)

Mrs. Archibald Kerr, wife of Rev. Archibald Kerr, died suddenly on May 22 in the Hospital at Hancock, N.H. The funeral was at the church in Hancock at 1:30 p.m. May 25. Burial was in Greenland cemetery, N.H. Mrs. Kerr leaves, besides her husband, six daughters: Mrs. Archibald French, Amherst; Mrs. Ernest Young, Chicago; Mrs. Herman Orr, New Brunswick, Canada; Mrs. Batholomew McNamara, Ellington, Conn.; Mrs. Charles Evans, Newington, Conn.; and Mrs. Roger Williams, Springfield. Mrs. Kerr came to this country in 1922 with the children to join her husband, who had come on from Glasgow, England, the year previous. Rev. Mr. Kerr was pastor of the South Church, 1922-1926. It was with sadness that South Amherst people learned of the death of Mrs. Kerr. She was one of quiet strength of Christian character that endeared her to the community. She had made several visits to South Amherst since leaving in 1926, thus continuing the interest of her many friends in her welfare.

In the year 1900 the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the meeting house was reorganized by appropriate services. The Rev. J.F. Gleason preached the anniversary sermon. He spoke of two, who are now the oldest members of this church, as mere boys 8 and 13 years old respectively when the church was built. Both joined the church in 1858, Oren Williams who lived in his home north of the church and Mr. Read whose home was the first house to the south. It is needless to say that we have no representative of that early date at this gathering. Miss Minnie L. Dana, granddaughter of Deacon Joseph and Clarissa Dana, original members of the church, assembled data at the 100th anniversary of the organization of the church such as the improvements in the church building from time to time, the report of council meetings to adjust difficulties as of the church membership, the religious activities of the church body and its various auxiliaries, and a list of its pastors and deacons from the beginning. The writer has taken freely from this compiled data that Miss Dana in her thorough way brought together as well as from the original records in keeping at the Jones Library.

In 1915 the church organization was incorporated into a legal body superceding the old parish organization which included both members of the church and other wise as the legal body, for disposing of financial business.

In the last 25 years the church membership has increased from 190 to 215. Many improvements to the building such as the resetting of the step stones that have assisted people in and out of the church for 125 years, and the excavation of a cellar under the church with new rest rooms.



At the Policemen's Ball: Left to right: Bill and Ann Kershliis, Henry Stoughton, Archie French, Arline Stoughton, Jemima K. French, Adra Toppan, Rev. Louis Toppan. In the late 1940's. (J.K.F.)



An Easter sunrise Christian Endeavor group in front of the Parsonage with the following identified; l. to right: Edward Markert, Archie French, Ken Ives, Phil Ives, (unknown man), Bob Schoonmaker, Mabel Whiting, Ray Wentworth, Beatrice Myers, Dot Wentworth(?), Jack Schoonmaker with cornet, Lota Whiting, Es Schoonmaker, Reno Smith with trombone. Around 1926-'28. (Courtesy Ken Ives)

In 1885 the Christian Endeavor Society as a young people's church organization was incorporated into the South Church and for the next 50 years was an important part of the church activities.

The Ladies Benevolent Society was first organized in 1868 with about 50 members. This society has not only been active

in missions but it has sponsored improvements in both the church building and parsonage ever lending a helping hand in time of need.

The Home Missionary Society was organized in 1887 but in more recent years have become associated with the Ladies Benevolent Society as a part of their missionary program.



Charter members of Christian Endeavor, formed in 1888 at anniversary observance in 1938. (Courtesy W.C. Atkins). Back row: Rev. Drake, William C. Atkins, Pres. of C.E., Rev. Eben Francis, pastor. Seated, left to right: Minnie Dana, Ada Baker, Lena Pomeroy with anniversary cake, Mary Pomeroy, Mary Armstrong.

The records report revivals taking place at different periods with substantial additions to the church, as in 1876 there were 62 added to the church membership as the result of the earnest leadership of the resident pastor, the Rev. F.B. Pullan.

The next year the church lost by withdrawal three families under the banner of the Seventh Day Adventist faith. In 1892 when the crusaders came to South Amherst for a twelve day period there were 19 added to the church membership. However, the average growth of the church has not been spectacular. We have found in the records that the church was organized with a membership of 46, which Miss Dana reported in her 100th anniversary paper had increased to 190 making an average increase of less than two members per year.

The church has always regularly contributed to missions in both the home and foreign missionary organizations. Of special gifts, we read that \$8 was sent for the benefit of fugitive slaves in 1854 and later \$20 for the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society, "to promote liberty, learning, and religion in Kansas". Money was raised for the soldiers of the Civil War and in 1865 \$14 was sent to Mount Holyoke Seminary.

To the Second Congregational Church goes the honor of forming the first Sunday School but the South Church followed under the name of the Amherst South Sunday School Association and became a member of the Hampshire Sunday School Union in 1828. The four church schools met at that time in the center for a gathering and 530 strong led by the president of Amherst College marched into the First Congregational Church to hear a talk by President Humphrey of the College.

In 1836 mention is made of one class of color; the secretary refers to teaching of the colored class as "a mark of exalted philanthropy. They belong to the great family of men entitled to equal privileges." The average attendance at this time was 130.



The church choir with the Rev. Eben Francis. L. to r., back row: F. Brainard Lyman, Doris Cowles, Nancy Stedman, Phil Stedman, "Happy" Barton, Don King, ---, Grace Harvey, Ted Schoonmaker, Rachel Cowles, Bill Atkins. L. to r., front row: Mrs. Marian Kelley, organist, Thyrza Barton, Margery Cowles, Barbara Tiffany, Mary Janes Stedman, Evelyn Thayer, Mildred Cook and the Rev. Eben Francis. About 1934. (B.L.)



Interior, restored in 1947, with shutters inside windows, new organ and lighting system etc. after a communion service, Oct. 1969.

Rob't. Perkins collecting music at organ; center, Winafred Schnarr at table. Barbara Tiffany in choir robe and Madeline De Friesse talking with "returned native."



Photo of canvassers in a light-hearted mood, on church steps, Nov. 23, 1952. Left to right, (not by rows): Guy Fuller, Paul Thorpe, Arnold Kenseth, Henry Stoughton, Brainard Lyman, John Dittfach, Francis Lyman, William C. Atkins, Robert Stedman, William H. Atkins, William

Bleckwehl, James Schoonmaker, Herbert Hutchings, Durelle Swan, Reuben Hannus (nearly obscured in rear), Harold Wentworth, Norman MacLeod, Philip Ives, Howard Atkins, Everett Dimock and George Allen. (R.W.A.)

In 1939 came the addition of a large commodious kitchen. In 1947 new windows of plain glass replaced those of stained glass, which had filled a need for a fifty year period, and a thorough redecoration of the auditorium was completed. The choir platform lowered to floor level with new sittings arranged in place of the chairs, a new colonial pulpit, recovering of the cushions, and a new lighting system all added to this attractive auditorium.

The place for the L.B.S. Meetings formerly held at the private homes for a social and supper has been changed so that

the ladies now meet at the church vestry for the monthly event which is followed by a moving picture program for the children. The public strawberry supper in June and the Chicken pie supper in October have become annual events in the past 25 years. The other allied organizations both religious and social have kept in pace with the changing times and demands on their ability to serve. Thus ends a limited historical sketch of the South Congregational Church of Amherst as of November 12, 1950.

W.H. Atkins and F.C. Adams



Members for 50 yrs. or more of the So. Congo. Church, May 3, 1953. Back row: Rev. Arnold Kenseth; Walter Hayward, Charles Stiles, Fred Adams, Frank Ives, Ralph Howlett; Middle: Lena Pomeroy, Emma Sanderson; Front: Mary Wheelock, Grace Lowe, Mary Pomeroy. (P.T.I.)

AMHERST — The South Congregational Church had as a unique and heart-warming part of the usual Sunday morning service, a special ceremony in recognition of its members of 50 or more years' standing, and those members who were in the original committee who took part in its incorporation in 1915. Invitations were sent to 13 persons, of whom 10 were present.

Church Clerk Philip Ives read the roll, after which each one

was presented with a flower by Mrs. Helen Stedman, deaconess, while the pastor, the Rev. Arnold Kenseth, extended to each a special friendly handshake of welcome. After the service the group assembled for pictures and for special greetings by the congregation.

Present for the ceremony were: The Misses Mary and Lena Pomeroy, who joined May 3, 1885; Walter Hayward, member since 1892; Mrs. Emma Sander-

son, member since 1893. Ralph Howlett, member since 1894; Frank Ives, member since 1900; Miss Clarabelle Thayer and Mrs. Mary Wheelock, members since 1903; Fred Adams and Charles Stiles, original incorporators, and members for 49 years.

Invited but unable to be present were Mrs. Carrie Smith Merrick, member since 1889; Miss Ethel Shaw, member since 1899, and Robert Merrick, member since 1901.

SOUTH AMHERST CHURCH HARD HIT IN HURRICANE

Congregation Faces Necessi- ty of Raising Funds for Repairs to Edifice

April 1, 1939

From Our Special Correspondent

Amherst, April 1—One of the heaviest losses in the hurricane which visited these shores in September of last year was the South Amherst church. Little has been said about it, but now that the damage has been repaired, that church finds itself faced with the problem getting funds to take care of the debt incurred and incidentally to do some much needed improvements that were already under discussion before the big wind brought its unexpected burden. Amherst's churches suffered little from wind damage, if one takes into account that the town supports a dozen different church edifices.

South Amherst, however, lost two memorial windows, two chimneys and considerable roof damage from falling bricks. The wind casings gave way. They were secured with old-fashioned square iron nails, and the constant drag from the wind gusts pulled the nails from their sockets, releasing the entire plate of glass to fall in many pieces on the floor. It is rarely that a memorial window must be replaced so it excites some interest as to what is done in case the family of those who were memorialized have gone from the scene.

One of the windows at South Amherst was just such a case. All of the stained glass windows were installed at the same time, almost 50 years ago, in 1892 in fact, presumably as the result of a campaign for such decoration. The one which suffered the greatest destruction was placed in memory of Mr and Mrs William E. Lyman, a branch of the Lyman family which has long since

departed from the community. An offer of a substantial gift from Miss Florence Hayward toward a window in memory of two members of her family has replaced the Lyman window. The other one, although badly broken, did retain the section where George and Judith Nutting, born 1786, were or are memorialized and workmen were able to rebuild the rest of the plate. George died in 1838, Judith in 1883.

This has cost the South Amherst church a considerable sum of money. Rebuilding chimneys is an expensive art, as those who had them tumbled in the September hurricane well know. And the damage done to the roof of the church by the falling bricks was also a costly proposition. It must all be paid for and numerous ways of raising money have been proposed. Definitely arranged is the plan for a memorial service, early in May, whereby dollar memorials are contributed by those who love the church or community for one reason or another, and wish to give in memory of persons, places or work done in the past or the present.



Hurricane damage in front of Cliff Shumway's house, So. East St. (R.C.S.)



A split maple, partially trimmed back by the road crew, after the September hurricane. Shays St., near Tague's house. (R.C.S.)

This type of money raising plan was used with great success at the Belchertown Congregational church two years ago at its decennial anniversary. Suitable recognition of these memorial gifts is made in a public place. Much more lasting and effectual than a program of entertainment which is over and forgotten in a few hours, although South Amherst may find it necessary to plan something in that manner for those who prefer to give their contribution that way.

The South Amherst church was organized in 1824, with letters from the First church at the center, the Second church, and the congregations of Belchertown and Granby, all of whom were members in good standing at home, but had moved to the southernmost section of the town to partake in the farming or other industry and found it difficult to travel so far for Sunday morning and week day worship. The south parish was formed for their benefit. The present building was dedicated in November of 1825 at a cost of \$3300 after the subscribers had "drawn the hewn stone for the underpinning" and "banked up" around the building and "fenced it in."

It had its squabbles, a smost New England church organizations did, and for a time there were two separate organizations meeting under the same roof, one in the basement and the other in the vestry, alternately, and "the notes of prayer and praise descending from above and ascending from below were frequently blended in a manner far from edifying." That is all past, however, and for some 40 years and more this church has served the community in cooperative welfare work that few village churches are privileged to do. It serves a section bounded on the north by Mill Valley and on the south by the Holyoke range, from Hadley on the west to Pelham and Belchertown on the east.

It is important that the old churches be kept in repair and in use. They tell the story of the early New England struggle for life and recognition more effectually than any other historical item, with the possible exception, perhaps, of the church burying ground which invariably lies nearby. The South Amherst cemetery is beautifully located, well kept and contains many names of historical interest.

SATURDAY'S GALES BRING MEMORIES OF '38 HURRICANE

(December 1, 1950)

The story of the storm of last week, both locally and throughout our United States, has been told by the press and the radio many times, yet we would miss an opportune moment if we should skip it from our weekly notes. It would seem that the plans of the great Master Mind had got misplaced, with the floods of California, the freezing weather of Florida, the snows of the Lake region, and the wind and the rains of the coastal area.

That the little village of South Amherst should escape from all of this turmoil could not be expected. We were reminded of the 1938 hurricane which came to us from the same direction, out of the south east, across the three mile stretch of Lawrence Swamp without a hillock to break its force.

The intensity of the wind and rain storm last Saturday increased in the evening after an all day drive, tearing the asphalt paper shingles one by one from the house and barn roofs, sailing them through the air to land where they willed, sometimes through the glass of a neighbor's window, as happened from the Berglund barn across the road to the Tiffany house. The 1938 blow came suddenly in the early afternoon of a September day and in two or three hours had spent its force and retired from the scene. A comparison of the intensity of this blow with that of 1938 might create an interesting argument but we believe exhibit "A" of thirty photographs taken after the storm of 1938 in the office of the chairman of selectmen would tip the scales back to the one of September 1938. This wind not only lifted roofs from sheds facing the south and east, but took both of the chimneys of the South Church dropping one on the front lawn and the rear chimney on the roof of the church which broke under the weight. When we think of the small base of the tower of the church steeple we wonder how it can withstand such high

wind pressure. We expect it must have been pinned tightly together by our forefathers to the basic structure of the church building itself. The wind of 1938 blew in a large stained glass window of the church. However, this year she safely weathered the storm.



Repairing the roof after the hurricane – Schoonmaker's. (E.S.P.)

The wind of last week attacked the gambrel roof barn of Winfred Shumway, which was exposed to the full pressure of the east wind, and twisted it out of plumb. It is needless to say that Shumway hustled his two school buses out of the building when he thought the building was near collapse.

W.C. Atkins's long veranda roof of the ell was lifted and lowered by the wind so that its two sustaining front pillars fell from their mooring, leaving the roof hanging in the mid air.

There were few buildings in South Amherst with a south or east exposure covered with the asphalt paper shingles which did not have many torn from the roof, in some cases entailing a complete new covering. Just what kind of a shingle or covering will withstand these wind storms is a question. With the exception of slate the writer has seen nothing better than the old wood shingle that our forefathers used, well nailed down to a substantial roof board. However, for fire protection the modern asphalt shingles are ahead of the wood.



Mrs. R.S. Schoonmaker, Sr.
standing beside a maple
uprooted by hurricane Sept.
21, 1938 (Es Schoonmaker
Pray)

The barn, converted into a hen house, also lost windows and shingles
in the 1938 hurricane. (E.S.P.)





Wires were down for many days, leveled by trees that fell north-west. Hawthorne's on So. East St. (E.S.P.)



The cemetery in S. Amherst "Bishop" stone in immediate foreground. (E.S.P.)

John Schoonmaker, being caught Saturday p.m. without electricity, moved 4500 eggs, in the process of hatching, three miles to E.G. Brown's incubator on West Street, also another 5000 partly incubated. It was a real scientific job to move this lot of eggs without chilling or breakage this distance. Mr. Schoonmaker does not expect a severe loss from the transfers.

The wind took the roof off from a small hen house of Willis Hall, South East Street and toppled over a small chimney of property formerly owned by the late Wilbur O. Shumway. A tree here and there was uprooted or split down from a weakened crotch. No leaves on the trees gave them an advantage in withstanding the wind over the trees of 1938 which were in full leaf.

One of the brooder houses on the Range after the '38 storm. (Richard C. Schoonmaker)

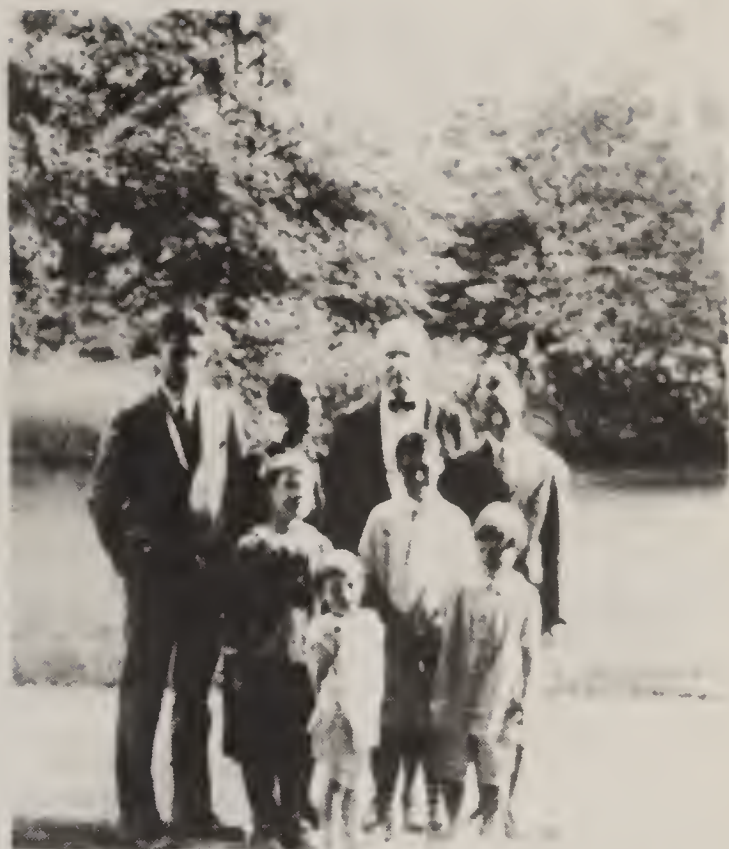


In some cases farmers with electric milking machines were driven to hand milking of the cows, who were much surprised in the change of the program, while the farmer in his turn would have been glad of extra help even from the "Milk Maid" he used to read about when a boy.

The experience of Saturday night gave us a good warning to have suitable make shifts for lighting both house and barn and the more difficult one, that of heating without electricity. A good fireplace, or transferable oil heater, and the not to be despised good old kitchen stove that has the record of never failing in time of need.



The Frank Ives family (P.T.I.)



The Barton family with Crampton, Billy, Betty, Preston, Happy and Thyrza.
Mid '20's. (C.D.)



Minnie and David Hawthorne, with friend Florence Hayward, descendant of George Nutting. 1932. (G.H.)



The MacLeod family
(N.M.)



An evening scene, Mary and Charles Miller, 1940's.

(Charlotte Miller McChesney)

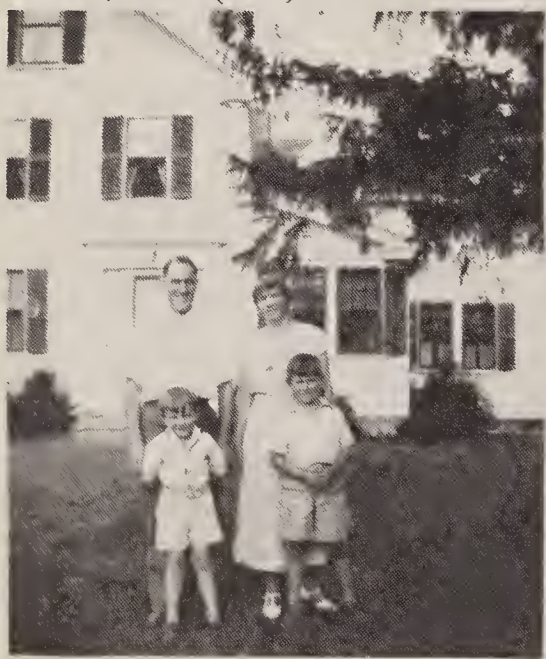
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Couch, at home, 1947. (Helen Couch)





The Rob't Schoonmaker, Sr. family – Bob, Ted, Jim, "Mr.", Jack with son Johnny, Ed Pray, Dick; Becky (Bob's wife), "Mrs.", Ruth-Ann, Ann (Jack's wife), and Es (Ed's wife). About 1936 (R.C.S.).

The F. Brainard Lyman family, in front of the remodeled house, South East Street, 1935. (B.L.)



Archie French and Win Shumway's Ford that brought the Kerrs to Amherst from Springfield after arrival from Scotland in 1921. (J.K.F.)



Robert Francis, son of the Rev. Ebenezer Francis, of So. East St., at his friends', the Schoonmakers. Mid '30's. (R.C.S.)



Four South Amherst friends: Charlotte Miller, Helen Parker, Esther Schoonmaker and Marjorie Atkins, on steps of Amherst High About 1929.

The Melvin Harvey family of West St., 1919. Charlotte, Scott, Heath, Verne and Melvin. (Helen R. Harvey)





A portion of the damage created by a devastating fire which swept through the woods of South Amherst on May 2, 1951, is being counteracted through the efforts of Boy Scout troop 502 of South Amherst. Last week the scouts transplanted 250 white pine seedlings to a section of the burned area. Participating in the project were the following boys, left to right: third row, Jerry Dewey, Jack Kershliis, Richard Mitchell, Wallace Capen, and Rodney Gray; second row: Everett Dimock, John Schoonmaker, Eddie Brace, Richard Berglund, and David Wentworth; and kneeling: Philip French, Robert Dimock, and Leonard Hebert.



At scout camp, mid '50's: Thorpe?, Michael Weir, Joe Langford and Arthur Dimock (Esther Dimock, 1951)



The South church is represented at the Community Fair on Amherst Common. About 1955. Left to right: Kitty O'Hearn, Esther Dimock and Kathleen King Hayes. (E.D.)

Cast of South Amherst Minstrel Show

The very active "double or nothing" young marrieds of South Amherst, the Cossatecs, in perhaps the last blacked face minstrel show.



Pictured above is the group which presented the "Deep South Amherst Minstrels" on the evenings of April 13 and 14. The show was considered a success both in its performance and numbers, as shown by about 350 in attendance.

Back row, l. to r. are Bill Atkins, Jim Schoonmaker, Dick Berglund. Chorus, l. to r.: Elizabeth Shumway, Elaine Nanartonis, Phyllis Sullivan, Betty Kenseth, Virtue Stedman, Ruth Atkins, Marilyn Berglund, Janice Barber, Charlotte McChesney. Hidden from view are Esther

Dimock and Marion Atkins. In the front row are Jean Cook, Arnold Kenseth, Howard Atkins, William Bleckwehl, Mrs. William Bleckwehl, Everett Dimock, Ruth Poole, and Joe Sullivan. Hidden, Phil Stedman. Tug Caswell, music director.

(Amherst Journal)

April 20, 1951

February 23, 1951

The death of Prof. Alfred H. Goodale has taken from our midst a life-long citizen and one who believed in the Christian principles as applicable to every day life. There are but few attaining his age who have spent their entire life in Amherst. It was here on the Bay Road that Mr. Goodale spent his boyhood, gaining his early education in the grade school at South East Street and the grammar at the corner of Potwine and Middle Streets. Graduating from Amherst College, he still retained his connection with the college serving in various capacities through his years.

Mr. Goodale was especially interested in boys and in their future welfare. Before the death of his father and mother and the breaking up of the home, he took into the family life, one at a time, several boys for sympathetic friendship and guidance. He had a deep interest in and gave liberal support to the development of the Boy Scout program.

Mr. Goodale was a life-long member of the South Church and gave to it his personal and financial support throughout his life. He gave much thought to religion as related to science and had at times conducted services from the pulpit when a vacancy occurred.

The study of botany in which he could see the Divine Thought unfolding in the delicate flower of the plant was in harmony with his nature. His cheery approach to the every day life was an inspiration to all.

(June 16, 1950)

Wellington A. Sauer, who died suddenly from a heart attack June 10, was the father of Mrs. Harold Wentworth of South Amherst. Mr. Sauer came to South Amherst twenty-five years ago, buying the farm now owned by his son-in-law, Harold Wentworth. Mr. Sauer was a man of integrity and trustworthy in every sense of the word. He will be missed as a man of intelligence and sound business judgement, a supporter of the church and all worthwhile projects.

AMHERST WAS ONCE CENTER OF THRIVING BRICK INDUSTRY

(March 9, 1951)

Many a town is known for its specific enterprise or industry as Amherst is known for her educational facilities so the south part of the town is known for her apple culture and at one time for her brick making industry. It is of this we wish to write.

Here in the old Hadley Lake region there was deposited two or three million years ago from the sediment of the lake great beds of clay. The wash of the Pelham Shutesbury hills brought sand down to the shore line and into the Lake. This brought the two necessary materials for the making of brick into close proximity and an attractive location for the brick industry.

The skill of brick making was not new to our forefathers. Babylonian bricks stamped with the names of kings dating as far back as 2500 B.C. have been found in the cemetery of Babylon. The French engineers in 1890 used many thousands of bricks made in 600 B.C. in repairing a canal in Palestine. The Biblical story of the brick making by the children of Israel in Egypt is familiar to all. Knowing the right amount of clay and sand and the right consistency of the mixture for molding into brick is a skill itself.

Mr. Joseph Kershlis, 87, of South East Street, tells us that in the old country a form was made on the ground or in the ground filled with sand and clay to the right proportions, water added and thoroughly mixed with the treading of man until it was of the right consistency for the moulding into brick. Charles Thayer of Bay Road tells of his forefathers relating a similar story but using cattle to tread the mixture of sand and clay.

The burning of brick, so called, was a real science. If the fires were too intense bricks would be warped into irregular shapes and if not hot enough might be yellow and soft. The usual size of brick today is much smaller than those of historical date but of no more durability.

Brick making must have taken place in Hadley long before any date we may mention in these notes.

The first record we have of brick making in this district is that of Jonathan Bridgman of the Bay Road who made brick on his own farm about 1818. With this brick he built his own home which became known as Bridgman's Tavern, he also manufactured and sold brick to the trade.

Frank Freeman, 85, tells of information he gathered when a young man, from men of a previous generation, that brick was made at an early date on South East Street at or near the corner of Mechanic Street. From the Morehouse History of Amherst, we read that Harvey Gilbert in 1830 advertised a brick yard for sale in South Amherst one and one-half miles south of the college buildings. We expect this was on the present Herman Markert farm of West Street where even now the farm plow occasionally uncovers brick. This yard could have easily been in operation as early as the Bridgman yard.

From the Claud Fuess story of a New England College we read that for the first Amherst College dormitory one Colonel Graves ordered brick from a brick yard at Mill Hollow "More recently called Mill Valley" specifying they were to be ready in four weeks. This could easily have been from the Harvey Gilbert yard advertised for sale in 1830. Simeon Clark who lived at "Mill Hollow" drew brick for the college. We can easily believe that the major part if not all of the brick for the first college dormitory came from the South Amherst district.

In the Morehouse history it is recorded that Russell Howard in 1836 came over from Hadley where he had made brick and opened a brick yard at Kelloggville.

In 1887 C.L. Alexander leased land in South Amherst of one Williams, former owner of Prof. Charles Hiram Thayer's farm, for brick making. This land lay between the two railroads, the brick yard was connected by switch tracks with both the Boston and Main and Central Vermont railways. A thriving business of manufacturing brick at this yard continued for many years. Brick from here supplied all the wants of Amherst and surrounding towns. At the height of its prosperity there were three to four million bricks manufactured each season, many of which went into the nearby states.

Your correspondent remembers how he and another high school boy gained a permit to ride from Amherst down to the brick yard in a freight car that was to be loaded with brick. This was lots of fun for us boys but failed to make brick layers of either of us.

The moulding and cutting of brick to the desired size, the sun drying of them in covered racks, the building of them into kilns to "burn" for further hardening was of a routine nature.

One helper declared he preferred it to farm work for it was the "same thing every day".

Kilns of brick were like great furnaces made of thousands of sun dried brick with heating fires throughout and arches underneath in which to place the wood for burning. Great quantities of wood were drawn into this yard by teams out of Lawrence Swamp and from the hills of Pelham and Shutesbury. We can still visualize the great clouds of smoke that arose from the burning of this wood in these brick kilns day by day through the brick making season of the summer.

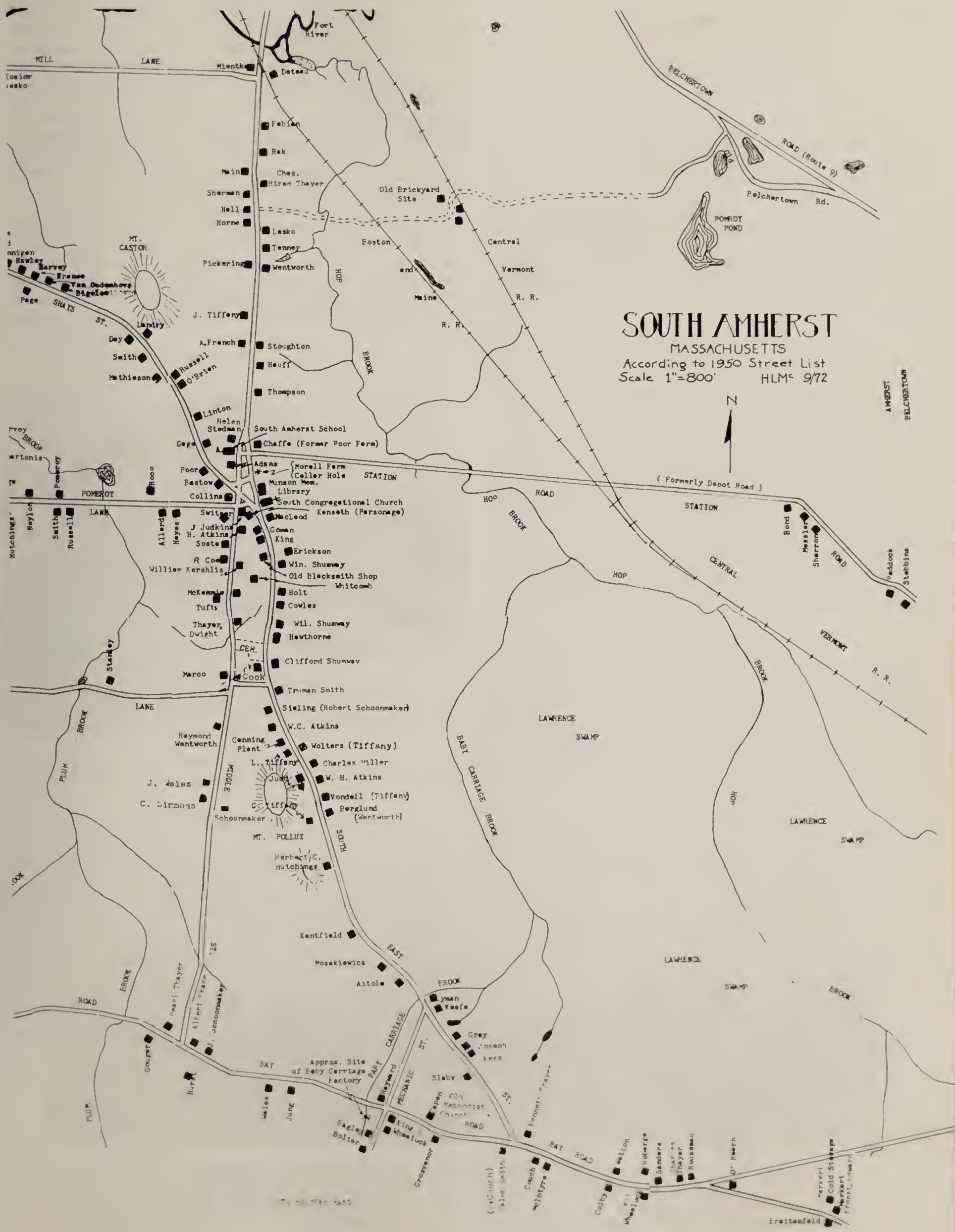
Because of the structural change in building to the use of steel and cement the demand for brick lessened in recent years to where the making of brick in South Amherst became unprofitable and had to be given up. Thus the activity of a large group of men in brick making has ceased.

The original loading house and horse barn on the old Alexander property is all there is now left of the brick making adventure in South Amherst.



Amherst Brickyard, showing cords of wood stacked for the kilns along Central Vermont R.R. tracks from Belchertown Rd. near dump. In 1900's. (Jones Library)





SOUTH AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS
According to 1950 Street List
Scale 1"=800' HLM 9/72



TROLLEY RIDES WERE ONCE POPULAR PASTTIME IN AMHERST

(March 23, 1951)

It was fifty years ago in the year 1901 that the selectmen of Amherst, at their meeting on February 25, granted the Amherst and Sunderland Street Railway Company a franchise to build a line from the iron bridge at Mill Valley to the Granby boundary at the Notch on the Mt. Holyoke range. Amherst had enjoyed trolley service to Mill Valley as well as to North and East Amherst for nearly four years.

The extension of the line into South Amherst was urged by many. In those four years various plans were discussed not only to reach South Amherst village but for an extension into Holyoke.

Through Turkey Pass

One proposal was that after entering the village at South Amherst the line could follow South East Street to the Bay Road and thence over the mountain range through a cut just east of Mt. Norwottuck to Granby and then on to Holyoke. Another plan was to go through to Belchertown to avoid the mountain which looked like too great a barrier to be surmounted. However, engineers were able to survey a direct ~~route~~ down West Street through Turkey Pass over the mountain by the Notch at a grade on which cars could be operated. Thus the road was built connecting Amherst by rail service to South Hadley and Holyoke.

The late Mrs. Nellie Ives, who lived on West Street close by the street railway and saw the cars go by her home throughout its thirty years of duration, wrote some years ago her memories of that period from which we will often quote.

Some Lost Lawns

When the survey was made, to the dismay of some, it was necessary along West Street to cut into some lawns, "Most people took it philosophically, but one woman who had passed her three score and ten declared they should not spoil her lawn. When the surveyors came she told them they should drive no stake on her land. Politely they drove their stakes either side of the lawn. On a later date as she sat by her bay

window, she saw a pair of oxen drawing a plow just ready to step on her lawn. The driver was a man of her own age whom she had known all her life. With her eyes snapping and her lips in a tightly drawn line, she threw up the window and called, 'Loomis Merrick, you stop! Don't you dare draw that plow through my lawn!' He stopped the cattle, rested his ox goad on the ground and said very slowly, 'Louisa, I hate to do this but this is a highway and I've got to plow for the new railroad track. Go lang.' At the crack of the whip the oxen started and the shining plow share cut through the middle of that smooth green lawn. Beside herself with impotent rage she screamed again, 'Loomis Merrick, you stop,' but his only response was a louder crack of the whip lash and 'go lang' to the cattle.

Louise Finally Weakened

"Louise declared she would never ride on their old cars, but one hot sunny day after the cars had been running a little while, she started on a three-mile walk to town. She had not walked such a distance in years but she did it. However, she fainted away right in the middle of the town and had to be brought home. Thereafter she rode on the cars."

Little Mountain, At the Notch, Amherst, Mass.



Postcard dated 1/1/07 showing the trolley route through the Notch or "Turkey Pass" that led south to Holyoke. (Courtesy Richard Shurbert)



The Notch, seen here from Route 116, was known originally as Turkey Pass in deference to the wild turkeys which roamed from one side of the mountain range to the other. None of these turkeys were seen after 1851, however, and the road has come to be called Mountain Road, West Street, or the Notch Road. It is suggested by Mr. Atkins that it might appropriately be named the Holyoke Road. —Amherst Journal Photo

To quote again from our eyewitness of the new road's happenings: "When the building of the road was finished two cars shining with their newness, trimmed with flags, and filled with officials and stockholders of the company, rolled smoothly over the gleaming rails through the Notch and on into Holyoke. They were cheered from every house and no one thought that in so short a time those cars would be displaced by any other mode of travel." We find by data obtained from the Holyoke office that the last car over the mountain was on November 21, 1932 after just 30 years of operation from the first one in July, 1902.

A lawn party was staged in honor of the completion of the road at F.M. Johnson's on West Street. A new double truck car brought officials, directors, and stockholders of the road, and the Amherst band. The house was decorated with flags and bunting; chairs and tables were placed on the lawn and veranda. It was a perfect July night and over 100 were present. "M.A. Dickinson, treasurer of the road, presided and introduced the speakers, one of whom was the late Dr. C. F. Walker who spoke of the value of the trolleys to the town, congratulated the people who lived near the trolley lines, and paid a fitting tribute to the public-spirited citizens of our town. The band gave a concert. Everyone was served with ice cream and cake and the evening ended with fire works."



ELM TREE AND HOMESTEAD OF THOMAS J. THURSTON

Through Turkey Pass to Amherst and Beyond

Alice Morehouse Walker (L. Thomson)

"As time passed conductors were asked more and more often to do errands, which made life run easily, like oil in the machinery. A child's forgotten lunch or book was left in the store by the conductor where the child could get it at noon. Conductors were known to lend a passenger money when the pocket-book had been forgotten. They would mail a letter which must not wait until the next day. Oh, yes, the trolley men were good friends of those who lived along the line." Even express packages were carried on the passenger cars, the writer having sent crates of strawberries to the Holyoke market in this way. Freight cars with coal, fertilizer, and grain were moved over the road with a switchtrack to the Boston and Main R.R. A car in which large cans of milk were picked up and carried to the Holyoke market each morning was a special service to the dairymen.

Only One Fatality

There was one fatal accident on the road. A car from Holyoke one evening jumped the track near the Herman Markert farm on West Street and the car turned over on its side. There were two passengers, M.B. Kingman, who stood in the front vestibule with the motor man, and sitting in a seat was Miss Nellie Linehan, a teacher in the Amherst schools, whose home was in Mill Valley. The motorman and Mr. Kingman were not injured but the tragedy of Miss Linehan's death but a short distance from her home is still vivid in our memory today.

Two happenings on the road that were stirring events were connected with the moving of freight cars. "A freight car loaded with fertilizers ran wild from the Boston and Main bridge down South Pleasant Street and tipped over into Fort River. At another time the brakes failed to hold on a train of dump cars loaded with crushed rock, coming down the north side of the mountain. Fortunately the Bay Road was clear when the train came roaring out on to the highway. It rounded the curves safely and its momentum carried it almost to the Fort River before it was brought under control."

As automobiles came into use, passengers on the trolleys became fewer and fewer. The car fare was increased, doubled, and added to until it cost 25 cents to ride from the Bay Road to Amherst, a distance of four miles. Mrs. Ives' last comment is, "Frequently people are heard to say, 'Oh, if we could only have the trolleys back,' but the wheels of progress do not seem to be trolley wheels now." And so we have stepped into the auto age and ride on wheels of rubber in preference to the wheels of the iron age.



A familiar scene for 30 years — a trolley bound for Holyoke, at the Notch, just north of the stone quarry. (Jones Library).

School Provides Tickets

High school students up to this time had provided their own way of getting to school either on foot or by dobbin, the town reimbursing them up to fifty cents per week. This method was now changed and tickets on the car line were provided.

Cars were used for pleasure as well as business. Many a swain has taken his sweetheart to Mountain Park for entertainment and a ride to the top of Mount Tom, and in reverse thousands of Holyokers took a ride for the first time over the mountain through the Notch into Amherst and viewed the enhancing beauties of the valley which had previously been hidden from their vision by the Holyoke Range. Strong attraction to the picnic parties at the end of the Pelham line was Orient Springs nestling among the evergreens, with the flow of its cooling waters over the moss-covered stones. "Through the summer months the cars were loaded. A night ride in the open cars was a delightful way to cool off and trolley parties were very popular. On Saturday afternoons and holidays double headers, which means one car following another, were necessary.

"Winters were something else with that of 1904 of special mention when the wind-driven snows so blocked the roads that cars were stalled until the big rotary plow came up from Holyoke to open the way.

Only Memories Left

What is left but memories of this electric car era, once established with great rejoicing with no thought of disaster or lack of permanency? The cars are gone, the rails are gone, the ties are removed, the ways are smoothed, macadamized and made one with the traveled road, leaving no visible reminder of that thirty years when the trolley entered into the business and pleasure of all the country side. But wait. The cross country line of the road from the Bay Road to the Notch still has a story. The cuts into the side of the mountain and the depressions filled in on both the north and south sides, using 30,000 cubic yards of gravel, if not disturbed, will ever remain a testimony to the labor and skill put into the Amherst and Holyoke electric railroad. A survey of West Street straight across Bay Road for a new auto thoroughfare up the mountain over Turkey Pass on the foundations laid fifty years ago was made sometime since. A highway on this old foundation may still be in the offing.

And so we end this rambling story of a transportation system that filled in the Notch between the four-horse stage-coach and the present automobile which glides over our roads at its own power. Will the airplane be next?

MORE INFORMATION ON TROLLEYS PROVIDED BY CORRESPONDENT

(March 30, 1951)

More information concerning the operation of the trolley line as published last week under the heading of "Trolley Rides Were Once a Popular Pastime in Amherst" came to hand too late for last week's *Journal*. However, a supplement to the story and a picture of trolley cars standing at the corner of Main and North Pleasant Streets is added this week to the trolley ride story.

W.R. Brown, writing for the New England magazine published in October 1912, dedicated to "Attractive Amherst," has this to say about the electric railways of that date.

"The electric cars are run on the Connecticut Valley Street Railway half-hourly from Amherst through Hadley to Northampton and from there to Holyoke and Springfield. Most Amherst people going to Springfield, however, take the steam cars at Northampton as the fare is the same, only 20 cents, and as there are 24 trains daily good connections can usually be made. The Amherst division of the Holyoke Street Railway Company runs cars from Sunderland and Pelham to

Amherst every hour and from North and East Amherst through South Amherst to Holyoke twice an hour. Trolley express cars are run daily over both the Holyoke and the Connecticut Valley Road and a milk car is run to Holyoke taking the milk from the doors of the Amherst farmers and delivering it in the heart of the city."

Mr. Brown might have added that the passenger car fare to Northampton was 10 cents and to Holyoke 15 cents, five to the Notch at the Mountain, five more on to South Hadley, and another five into Holyoke. We, too, would add that the passenger cars were open, that is without closed sides. The seats were crosswise of the cars. No heat was furnished for the winter season. When rain, snow, or the cold wind blew through the car, side curtains were pulled down and fastened at the foot. However to offset this the joy of riding in an open car on a hot summer day cannot be fully realized by those shut into the bus of today. The nearest to this is the sports model auto of the present day which but few have the opportunity to enjoy.

So we leave this historical sketch of trolley life, the pride and glory of the past generation, to the sympathetic understanding of a future historian.



The old trolley car barn on South Pleasant Street.
(Jones Library)



"An open car on a hot summer day —" a special delight in trolley days. A scene at nearby Mt. Sugarloaf.

(Courtesy Mrs. S.M. Robinson)

NINE SOUTH AMHERST BRICK HOUSES

OVER A CENTURY OLD

(April 6, 1951)

Owing to the rarity of brick houses in South Amherst, we have been much interested during the past summer in the attractive house built on West Street by Prof. Alfred E. Johnson of Amherst College. As we surveyed our home district we could find but ten others with brick in their construction, nine of which are of a probable 125 years standing. The tenth was built only ten years ago by E.M. Switzer, Jr. The saving in upkeep on these charming old houses, standing without the cost of painting for over one hundred years, must have been a large sum, and one that might well be considered in making a decision to build of wood or brick.

1806. We understand that brick from his yard were furnished for the construction of the Thayer house near by, and of the school-house on the corner of South East Street and the Bay Road, and perhaps of Mr. Gray's house, on South East Street which was built in 1830. This date is shown by having been chiseled into a brick in the wall by the front door.



Rodney Gray's house (Smith) built in 1830, facing west on So. East Street near Mechanic Street. Probably Bridgman brick. (H.M.)



On the hill above the "Markert" storage - the "Jonathan Bridgman" house and tavern of early days. Brick made by its owner on the farm, around 1818. (H.M.)

First Brick House Built in 1818

The first of the ten brick houses referred to, that we have record of, was built in about 1818 by Jonathan Bridgman on the Bay Road and later became known as the Bridgman Tavern. Here it was that in the years to follow the four-horse coach halted on its way to and from Boston to Northampton as also did the Amherst-Palmer coach. Mr. Bridgman made the brick for this house on his own farm which he had acquired in

Collins House Once Post Office

The brick house now owned by Henry Collins, which faces the village green, we were told by the late F.L. Pomeroy, was built about 1820. This building was the home for the post office for more than 50 years. The authenticated story comes



Once the red brick store and post office, now Henry Collins' house at junction of Pomeroy and Middle Street, built 1820. (H.M.)



Facing south on Bay Road, the Charles Thayer house. Brick probably made by Jonathan Bridgman. (H.M.)

that the John Leslie house opposite the apple storage was built with brick from the near by brick yard on the Markert farm where the bases of two brick kilns are still discernible. Another brick house of similar proportions on West Street, opposite that of Ralph Crocker, burned fifty years ago. The cellar hole is still in evidence.



The ample dwelling of John Leslie, on West St., probably constructed from brick manufactured by Harvey Gilbert on the later named Markert Farm. (H.M.)

The sixth house to mention is that of F.L. France on Shay street. Two brothers, both brick masons, by the name of Chester and William Rice lived here in 1818. It is thought that the brick for this house came from the kilns at the Markert farm, near the corner of Pomeroy Lane and West Street and that it was built by these brothers. The seventh house, owned

by the Stiles brothers, is the one on West Street which now has been converted into a three apartment house. This house is likely to be of about the age of those just mentioned. The



The (Rice, Hosford) Holt white-painted brick house on Shays Street. Probably made from kiln on "Markert Farm."



The seventh brick house, near Potwine Lane on West Street, owned by Stiles. (H.M.)



Facing Norwottuck, the (Hindle) John Schoonmaker home on Bay Road, one of the oldest brick houses. (E.S.P.)

eighth house is that of John Schoonmaker on the Bay Road, a one story attractive house of colonial architecture, similar to that of Prof. F.L. France on Shay Street.

Prof. Charles Hiram Thayer's house, is the ninth and last in our list of the old houses and may antedate all others. Mr. Thayer reports that architect Carl Putnam of Northampton made the assertion that, judging by the architectural features of the moldings within the house, it must have been built before the revolutionary war period. Another interesting fact is that the line of the front wall of the building points to the North Star, the building having been set on the points of the compass. The facing stones at the base of the brick wall are quarried "sandstone" as are those of the Schoonmaker house, while of the other seven houses "gneiss stone" or more often called "Pelham granite", coming from the quarries in Pelham, are the foundation stones for the brick walls. Mr. Thayer tells us that the width of the brick walls. At the base of his house is fourteen inches. This necessarily makes for a window sill double the width of that in most houses.

It is likely that quarried stone from the Pelham hills had not been produced at the early date of building either the Thayer or the Schoonmaker house, and that is why sandstone was used, but where was it quarried? We read in Prof. B.K. Emerson's book, "The Geology of Massachusetts", that there

were the Larree sandstone quarries just south of Titan's Pier at the foot of Mt. Holyoke and also across the river at the foot of Mt. Tom, which "produced valuable building stone". J.G. Holland in his "Geology of Western Massachusetts" says "innumerable quantities" of sand stone had been quarried at the Mt. Tom quarries. It is safe to assume that the stone base for the brick walls of these last two houses mentioned came from one of the above named quarries and that the stone for the base of the brick walls of the other seven came from Pelham. We were not able to find the date when these Larree sand stone quarries or the Pelham quarries were first opened but it is reasonable to believe that Amherst builders would not have gone to Hockanum or Easthampton for building stone if they were available in nearby Pelham. If this is true it helps to support the claim that the Schoonmaker house as well as the Thayer house antedated the others.

Houses Show Rugged Construction

These old houses, nine in number, have stood for at least 125 years without a competitive house to take from their glory. The architectural beauty and sturdiness of their upright walls give us a sense of substantial security. Thousands of brick were used in building the old fireplaces and ovens. Clifton Johnson, the author of "Historic Hampshire" tells of a chimney in South Hadley built in 1791 in which 10,000 brick were stowed away.



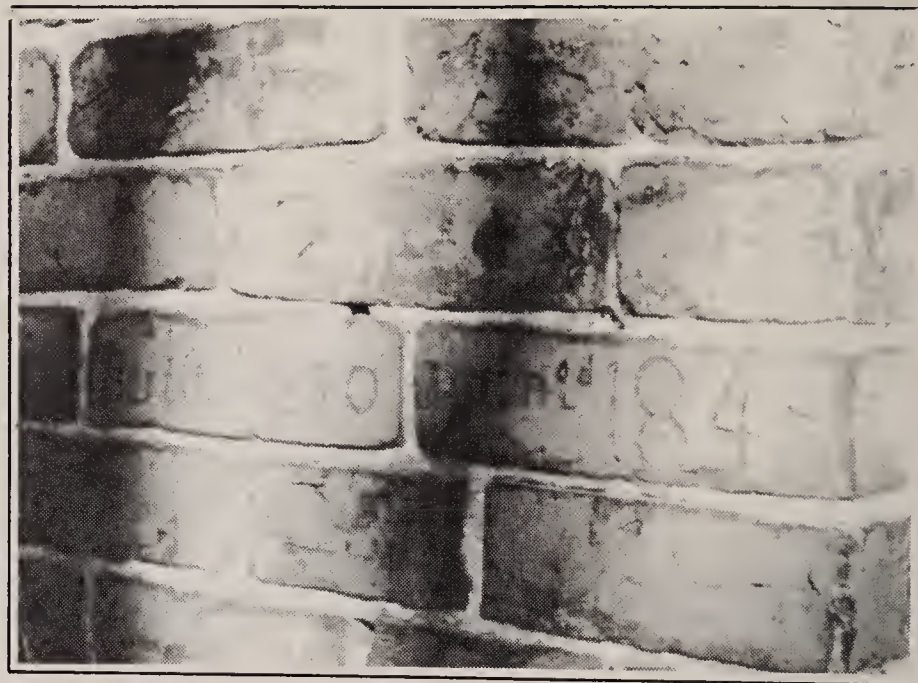
The dignified, early, brick house of Chas. Hiram Thayer, on upper So. East Street. Its walls are 14 inches thick. (H.M.)

The brick made by our forefathers in New England were somewhat smaller than those of today but samples of those made 1600 B.C. on exhibit in the British Museum are treble the size and those in 600 B.C. were made double the size of any brick of today. The custom of stamping the brick in those early days with the name of the maker followed on into our own South Amherst brick yard, where the letters M.G. were plainly stamped into each brick to represent the name Marcey and Gardner, the manufacturer. These brick were 4" x 8" x 2". Mr. E.G. Brown relates that the brick that went into his old home in Vermont were made on the farm and were 8" x 8" x 3".

Bricks Used in Schools

Brick are as indispensable now as of old for there is hardly a home without a brick chimney. Amherst has relied upon brick in building her school houses. The one in South Amherst facing the village green is a good example. The attractive Munson Library Building which graces the village green to the West is also of brick partaking of a colonial background and setting.

The durability of brick has been proved by 4,000 years of test and still supplies the material for some of our finest architectural buildings as well as homes. After a fire that consumes house and contents we stand in silent obeisance as we look upon the brick chimney standing as a mute testimony to its strength and durability against time, fire, and water. The economy of building with brick, or at least a veneer of brick, to offset the great cost of the ever recurring paint job is well worth considering. We hope in the future to see more attractive colonial cottages, built of brick, a material that has proved its worth in generations past.



Chiseled date of construction of the Rodney Gray house on So. East St. Built 1830, painted 1848. (H.M.)



The So. Amherst Grade School, built 1902, before it was landscaped. The "Allis" house, built by Hiram Allen, postmaster, to the right, and Parnell Munson barn on top of hill. (R. Shurbert)



The Munson Memorial Library and auditorium on a donated corner of the (Williams, Morell) W.H. Atkins' farm. Architect: Carl Putnam. Built 1930. (Jones Library)

HOSTELING OFFERS INTERESTING, INEXPENSIVE SUMMER TRIPS

(June 22, 1951)

The Amherst Youth Hostel is housed in a story-and-a-half ell at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hutchings, Sr., of South East Street, South Amherst. On June 2, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings welcomed the first hosteling group of this season and began their eighth year as hostel house parents.

There will be more travelers turning into the Hutchings dooryard during the summer, for vacationing American youth hostellers, 16,000 strong, will soon be streaming over trails and byroads in this land and spilling over into Canada, Mexico, and farther countries.

In groups conducted by experienced leaders, or with family and friends, some hostellers will hoist knapsacks onto their backs to hike into the mountains, and others will sling saddlebags over bicycles to visit scenic attractions throughout the country. Hostellers will be found traveling our smaller waterways by canoe; they will set off on horse back; they will cross the Atlantic, perhaps passing in mid-ocean hostellers from foreign countries bound for a summer's travel in the United States.

The non-profit organization, American Youth Hostels, Inc., with headquarters at 6 East 39th St., New York 16, N.Y., and more than 28 chartered district councils in 19 states, has proved that travel, minus luxury, still adds up to enjoyment. How has AYH done this? First, by providing inexpensive accommodations (50 cents per night) in supervised hostels over planned routes in certain sections of the country, and second, by stipulating that hostellers must travel "under their own steam."

Ages 4 to 94 Eligible

American Youth Hostel membership requirements are simple. An AYH pass for \$3, or \$2, if under 21, can be secured from national headquarters or a district council. Anyone from "4 to 94" years of age and sound in body, is eligible. With his pass, a budget of \$1.50 per day for food and lodging, and an overnight kit, a hosteller is qualified for a sponsored trip and a welcome at any of the 97 hostels in the New England, Middle Atlantic, Middle West and West Coast regions of the United States. His pass also entitles him to hostel privileges in Canada and 23 other countries.

Hosteling isn't easy, although it becomes easier with practice, say hostellers. It takes grit, enthusiasm, and the desire to cooperate with others, they say. In addition to the fun of visiting new places, they find it has other rewards, knowledge, experience and the satisfaction of accomplishment.



The Youth Hostel at Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hutchings', So. East St. (Courtesy Herbert Hutchings)



Herbert and Harriet Hutchings at their kitchen door, 1972.

The majority of the estimated 16,000 hostellers taking to the road this summer will make short independent trips in their own localities. More extended tours at some distance will usually be taken in sponsored groups of from 7 to 10 persons under the guidance of a trained leader. For the later trips there must be added to the food and lodging cost, the leader's fee, and certain other fixed charges that are well worth the extra price. On a sponsored tour, the leader can make the most of interesting highlights along a route; he knows how to shop wisely for the food needed to fill up his active ever-hungry charges, and can fix minor bike troubles, or direct the games or songfest after supper is over. Either a man or a woman, and often a teacher or physical education major, a leader is the mainspring of a successful hostel tour.

Long or Short Trips Planned

Estimated costs of sponsored trips from Boston, for example, range from a 7-day trip on Cape Cod, \$29, to a 28-day trip to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick for \$100. Of course, where the starting point for a trip is at some distance from the hosteller's home community, he must naturally expect to add to the cost the transportation by bus, railway, or boat, to the starting point. Departure dates for all tours are available from district councils or national headquarters.

A sample hosteling day starts in the hostel at 6 a.m. with everybody up for a substantial breakfast. Next comes lunch packing for the noonday meal which will be in picnic style at some shady spot along the road, and then a final check-up to be sure the hostel is left in order for its next occupants.

With a wave to the house parents, the group is on bicycles, and off over lesser traveled roads, headed for another hostel, usually about 40 miles distant. Hikers plan to cover about 12 miles daily.

The leader stops the group for occasional rests during the day. He points out landmarks, and pilots the group through whatever spots of interest lie along the route, such as museums, state parks, college campuses, historic sites, or celebrated buildings. Where found, beaches, summer theatres, and music or dance festivals are not passed by without a visit.

By late afternoon or early evening the hostellers wheel up to their destination, the next hostel in the chain they are following. There they meet the house parents, present their passes, register, pay their 50-cent lodging fee, and also may meet earlier arrivals of another hosteling group that is spending the night at the same hostel. Then they get to the business of unpacking their simple baggage, washing up, and preparing a hot supper of rib-sticking quality.

Evenings Are For Leisure

If there are no socks to wash, and no biketinkering to be done, the two or three hours after supper are spent enjoying the facilities of the hostel's main activity room swapping travel yarns, resting, reading, listening to records, or singing. When a hostel stop coincides with some community activity such as a square dance, hostellers are likely to forget their strenuous day and join in "all hands 'round, and swing your partner."

Hostels are located in farmhouses, converted barns, or rustic cabins. The district council is directly responsible for establishing and helping a hostel to function. In Amherst the council chairman this year is Miss Ruth Brown. Other officers are: secretary, Miss Marie Rafferty; treasurer, Mr. James Lowell; trip chairman, Mr. Donald Hastings; executive committee, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Avery, and Miss Mary Barkowski.

Miss Brown, a teacher in the Amherst High School, was one of a group of eight persons who last summer made a two-month AYH sponsored tour that included two weeks on board ship and six weeks by bicycle in England, Scotland and Ireland.

No, she had no blisters, Miss Brown said recently, even after 1,100 miles of pedaling, although sometimes her feet were tired at the end of the day.

Memorable 4th in Ireland

Recalling a memorable day on her tour, Miss Brown said that it was the 4th of July, and the hosteling group was in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the home city of the tour leader, Andy Black.

To help his group celebrate the American holiday Mr. Black arranged a luncheon which unexpectedly developed into a gala affair at a large hotel where the hostellers were guests of the Northern Ireland Tourist Bureau, and the target of news photographers from four or five Belfast papers.

That same day the group was delayed in leaving Belfast for their hostel, Kilynether Castle, about nine miles outside the city. When they arrived late in the evening at Kilynether, Miss Brown said, instead of the dozen or more hostellers usually encountered, they found a crowd of 300 Belfast hostellers, who had learned that Andy Black and his group were coming, and had assembled to welcome the Americans.

It was a wonderful reception, she said, with pleasant conversation, singing, and dancing. Miss Brown added that she and the others in her hosteling group were not as skillful in demonstrating American folk dances as were the Irish hostellers in their jigs and reels.

Hostel in 15th Year

There has been a hostel in Amherst for fifteen years. It was, in fact, one of the earliest to be established in New England, the region that pioneered hosteling in the United States.

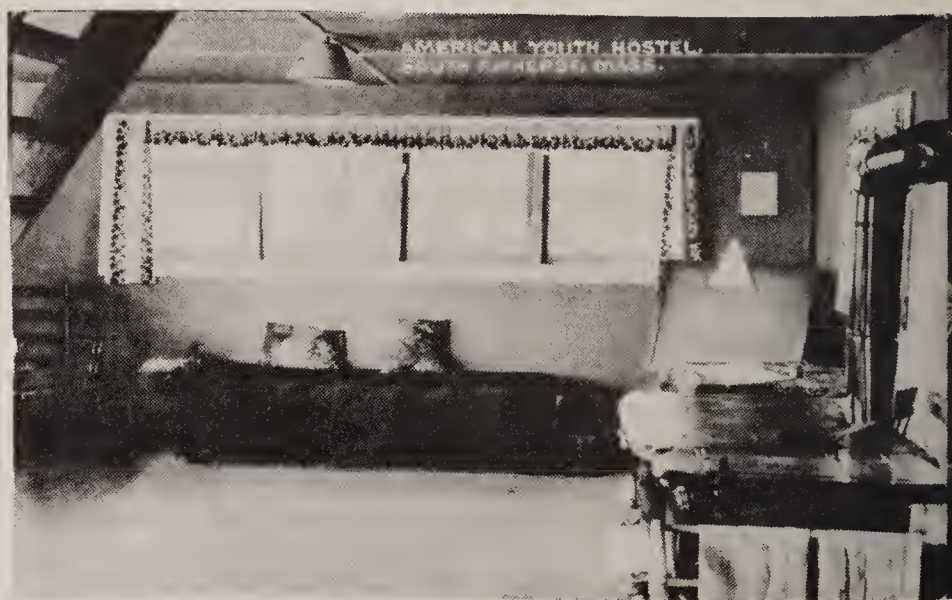
In June of 1936, the first hostel in Amherst was set up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cummings of North Pleasant Street in the house now occupied by Miss Esther Strong's nursery school. Members of the hostel founding committee still resident in Amherst and vicinity include Prof. Stowell C. Goding, who was chairman; Professor, now President, Ralph Van Meter; Mrs. Ada Tague; Mrs. George R. Taylor; and Mr. Porter Dickinson.

After eight years, Mr. and Mrs. Cummings moved from Amherst, where upon the hostel was established at the Hutchings farm in South Amherst by the efforts of the then council members, and the help of willing friends from the different sections of Amherst. Since its first guest arrived on June 8, 1944, the hostel in its present location has sheltered more than 2,000 AYH members.

The Amherst hostel has room for 7 boys and 7 girls. Its accommodations are simple, as in all hostels, but pleasant and more than adequate for eating, sleeping, washing and recreation.

At one side of a large "keeping room", with painted cement floor, is a wood stove, hot water tank, and sink. Occupying one end is a group of chairs and lamps for reading, a magazine table, recordplayer, and radio.

There are brightly-curtained, screened windows on three sides of the room; a table with benches stretches along one wall, and an open stair-ladder leads up to the sleeping rooms overhead.



Interior of the hostel at Hutchings. (R. Shurbert)

Hot Shower Star Attraction

At the windowless end are the toilet room, and the shower bath, with hot and cold water. This is a popular attraction, according to Mr. Hutchings, for showers with hot water are not standard hostel equipment.

It speaks well for the character of hostellers in general, that Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings are still enthusiastic house parents after eight years.

"It has been a pleasant experience for us," Mrs. Hutchings said a few weeks ago. Mr. Hutchings added, "It's almost like traveling ourselves, for we meet and talk with people from many parts of the world."

A random inspection of the register showed that not only have AYH members from many of our states stopped there, but also representatives of the countries of India, Iraq, England, Australia, Luxembourg, Scotland, Puerto Rico, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, and China.

Mr. Hutchings explained that many, but not all, of the hostellers from foreign countries were students attending colleges in the United States, and pointed out that while high school and college students make up the largest category of hostellers, there are teachers, clerks, writers, secretaries, engineers, and artists enrolled in AYH.

Mrs. Hutchings remarked that by coincidence the extremes in age requirements for AYH membership, "from 4 to 94", have been guests at the Amherst hostel. A little four-year-old girl, who rode in a seat attached to the handlebars of her father's bicycle, stayed overnight, as did the late Mrs. Lois Mitchell of Amherst, who was well known here for riding horseback and pedalling her bicycle at an advanced age. Mrs. Mitchell rode down to the hostel on a hot summer's day by bicycle, according to Mrs. Hutchings' remembrance, and spent the night there when she was 94 years of age.

Among the amusing incidents that have taken place in connection with the hostel, Mrs. Hutchings recalled especially the afternoon when several boys came to her in perplexity, saying they couldn't seem to get the wood to burn in the hostel's stove. She found that they had tried to start the fire in the oven.

"When the same boys stopped here on their return trip, I wish you could have seen them," Mrs. Hutchings said. "They had passed out of the amateur class. They seemed to have matured noticeably from their experiences in adjusting to new people, places and situations, and were bubbling over with enthusiastic stories of where they had been and what they had seen."

Mr. Hutchings said that the record player furnished by the council is a source of pleasure to hostel guests. "Your might say," he remarked with a smile, "that the hostel can use more records if anyone has some he'd like to give us. The young people enjoy concert music, as well as popular selections, and also put square dance records to good use."



Two hostellers, Geo. Jones and Thelma Fischer, ready for the road. (H.H.)

The house parents voiced their appreciation of "the splendid help" given the hostel by Amherst residents outside of the hostel organization. When the ell and woodshed of their house were renovated into the hostel in 1943, "they gave generously of time, labor and materials" said Mrs. Hutchings, and added that aid has been forthcoming since that time to add to, or keep in condition, the hostel facilities.

Miss Brown also expressed, on behalf of the Amherst council, her appreciation for the continuing interest and support given by numerous local friends of hosteling.

Remodeled home on Shays Street of C.F. Morehouse, co-editor of *History of Amherst*, 1896. 1972. (H.M.)



(From W.H. Atkins' writings we learn that the Morehouse family lived in the George Page house on Shays Street.)

March 9, 1951

Mrs. Annie W. Wentworth, 87, of 747 Main St., died Tuesday afternoon in Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, after a long illness. Born in Yorkshire, England, on October 8, 1863, she was the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Whittle) Crutch. She first came to Canada when seven years old and moved to the United States a few years later, settling in Litchfield, Conn. She was married to Edwin H. Wentworth of Litchfield in 1881 and they made their home in that town until 1902. At that time they came to Amherst, where Mr. Wentworth engaged in farming. He died in 1915. Mrs. Wentworth was a member of Wesley Methodist Church and a charter and honorary member of South Amherst Grange.

She leaves four sons, Henry G., Edwin A., Harold T. and Wesley J., all of Amherst; a sister, Mrs. Charles Buell also of Amherst; 24 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Services were held in Wesley Methodist Church Thursday at 2. The Rev. James H. Laird, the pastor, officiated. Six grandsons served as bearers. Burial was in Wildwood Cemetery.



The "Tufts" press used by Carpenter and Morehouse. (Blanche Hawley)

Celebrating 84th Birthday



MR. ADAMS HONORED—Mr. Adams and friends are caught by the photographer at the supper at which Mr. Adams was honored recently. On Mr. Adams right are Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Chisholm of Springfield; Mrs. W. H. Atkins, Mrs. Dwight Lyman and Mrs. William Sanderson. Many local and out-of-town friends of Mr. Adams were present at the affair.
—Photo by Barnes Studio

FRED C. ADAMS HONORED ON 84TH BIRTHDAY AT CHURCH SUPPER

(June 29, 1951)

A pleasant occasion was the observance of the 84th birthday of Mr. Fred C. Adams at the church supper Friday evening June 22. At this supper meeting with the dining room well filled, dated on his birthday seemed an appropriate occasion for an observance of the 84th link in Mr. Adams life.

Included at the head table with Mr. Adams were his out of town friends Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Brewer of Orange, and Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Chisholm of Springfield.

At the supper hour when the dessert was being served Mrs. Helen Stedman entered the dining room with a decorated candle-lighted birthday cake to present to Mr. Adams. This was accompanied by the enthusiastic supper group singing the familiar song "Happy Birthday to You". Mr. W.H. Atkins presented to Mr. Adams in behalf of the people as a token of their friendship with a birthday card inscribed with the names of many of his friends, a gift which proved to be on opening a gold capped Parker pen which would gratify the "wish for a good pen" that he had been overheard to express. Mr. Adams responded to these expressions of good will with his usual good humor and appreciation.

He now blew out the lighted candles so placed as to read 84 and cut the cake to give of its portion to the friends around him.

Mr. Adams came to South Amherst with his parents in the early seventies. He can go back in memory to near Civil War days in which war his father served. He calls to mind attending the little Methodist Church at the corner of South East Street and the Bay Road in the early days. The services were discontinued at this church in about 1875 and other use made of the building.

Mr. Adams followed his father's trade of painting and wall paper hanging. Many families rely on Mr. Adams' artistic skill to care for the yearly decoration of their homes. He and Mrs. Adams (the latter deceased in 1949) cared for the communion

set of the church, of which they were members for 20 years. Mr. Adams was janitor of the Church building as many more. He is closely connected with all community and church interests.

When the church body in 1915 voted to incorporate the "Church Society" and the "Parish" under the one head of the "South Congregational Church" Mr. Adams was appointed on the committee of five to bring this about. He served as clerk of the church for many years and was the Church School superintendent at one time.

A voluntary fire company was formed in the early days of which he was a member; this was later absorbed into the Amherst Fire Department as "Call men".

The writer well remembers at the fire at the house now owned by George Bastow that Mr. Adams was a member of the fire department to aid in squelching a fire that started to be beyond control.

Mr. Adams with a horse drawn mower cared for the common, we venture to say, for 20 years or more.

He was janitor of the near by school building for many years. The teachers found in the Adams home a welcome place to live during the school week free from the annoyances of the school day.

Now at 84 years Mr. Adams greets one with the same vigor and good will as of old. He can reminisce back over more years than is the privilege of many. The best wishes of the community go to him as one of the standard bearers of a New England Village.

40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED WITH AUCTION

(August 2, 1951)

It was on the second day of August that our fortieth wedding anniversary came knocking at the door of the "Mrs." and myself. Plans had been made of a year's standing for a real celebration when this time should arrive but all such faded away as the day approached. Not to be wholly foiled in our celebration we considered other ways of honoring the day that would give proper recognition of the event. A Williamstown trip as of a year ago and a stop at the Chimney Mirror House of British colonial days, or a call on the Hamilton sisters in Northfield and again a look at the remarkable photographic views taken by them of New England churches and covered bridges with any others taken since our last visit, to patronize the Weldon at luncheon, and then home were discussed, but when we read of an auction to be held in Hampden August 2, the scales tipped so definitely that way that the question of how to use the day was no longer an unsettled one. The "Mrs." packed a good lunch suitable for any two on an outing and we were off at 9 a.m. Not to be thought of as wholly unbalanced by the auction fever or of a frivolous nature, we took an indirect route through Munson making a call on our cousins. Here we made known our plans for the day and the event it was to recognize. Upon hearing of this we were cordially invited to return after the auction thrill and enjoy an evening dinner with them. Knowing from past experience what we might expect at their home in both cordiality and viands we hastened to accept the thoughtful invitation. With this pleasant anticipation of an evening with them we continued on our way to Hampden.

Entire Furnishings For Sale

The route led us through a young forest growth where trees bowed to one another across the road for a distance of four miles or more with hardly a house on the way. We came out on to the Main Street of Hampden, settled in between the hills, with houses nestled by its border surrounded by well kept lawns. We were now directed to the auction one half mile out of the village upon the eastern slope of a hill. There, too, were well kept lawns in front as well as in the rear of the house where shrubbery made for seclusion of a family picnic. A tent was erected close by the south door of the house partially shaded by an old apple tree that had stood sentinel for a hundred years, listening to the discussion of wars and rumor of wars. The household owner, now making his future home in Florida, was offering the entire furnishing of the house at the sale. The patrons of the auction were allowed to enter the house and carefully inspect the contents before the sale. The "Mrs." made use of this privilege and found a home most attractively furnished, the furnishings of which had not been disturbed from their every day use, couch and chairs in place, mirrors on the wall, matting on the porch and dishes in the cupboard.

We took seats within the tent well to the front. To rectify the tipping of our chairs we secured books from the car (not of enough antique nature to interest the "Mrs.") entitled "Scientific Knowledge and Philosophy of Life" of 1860 print, with which to level the chairs' foundation. Now that our chairs were well placed on "Scientific Knowledge and Philosophy of Life," we felt assured that with such support it would enable us to cope with the decisions of the day. Promptly at 10:30 came the usual announcement that a charge account would be carried by the secretary if one wished and that the seat now held by the patron was his for the day. To get the attention of

the patrons Mr. Bean usually offers first some article of unusual interest. This time it was a special fragile set of gold banded cups and saucers. The beauty of them, ideal for the afternoon tea, and one that the housewife would be proud to display, took the fancy of more than one but as you may guess but one took them home. Next came to hand an old time bread and milk set at \$1.50. These are somewhat outdated now but blueberries, bread and milk for us children on the Granville hills was a common supper dish and in our estimation, none better.



"The Yankee Auctioneer," genial George Bean, on his improvised auctioneer's seat, assisted by Clifford Upham and his nephew Robert Bean. (Courtesy Ruth Bean)

Next in rapid succession came a hand mirror that the "Mrs." took at a 50 cent bid; two rabbit-eared arrow back chairs at \$5.50 each; a Queen Anne tea table that hung on a \$9 bid until the auctioneer worried another 50 cents from a patron and then declared, "You got it for 50 cents."

An attractive Pennsylvania Dutch child's rocking cradle brought renewed interest to the group as the bidding lay between an antique lover and a father who was bidding for his little girl. When the auctioneer declared "the little girl gets it" there was general approval by a stirring demonstration of hand clapping, an unusual act at an auction. A green demijohn bottle at \$10, the like of which we have sometimes coveted, once used as a container for spiritous drinks, now much sought after as a decorative feature on a porch or lawn, met active competitive bidding by two home owners, but as in all cases only one received the prize. A four drawer bureau that Mr. Bean tried without result to start at \$20, then said \$15, unless you steal it." Now a nod at the fifteen was followed up to twenty-five when bidding seemed to stop and we thought the end had come but the hesitant buyers were encouraged by the auctioneer to go on and not to fear for they were "among friends". A new interest now was taken in the bureau and the bidding went merrily on to the grand final of \$37. Next an empire mirror at \$10 was declared to be "the biggest buy here." A small chest ideal for the holding of a child's playthings attracted my interest (with ten grandchildren you can guess why) and I found myself the possessor of this at \$2.50. Two porch rugs 6 x 12 of very attractive pattern and quality took the eye of the "Mrs.". She tried to figure out how one could fit a 6 x 12 rug on a floor 5½ x 10 or the other on a porch 8 x 8. Not able to solve the problem she called on me for assistance. The result of our convinced computations added to 0 and the rugs found a home elsewhere. A corner cupboard, much sought after by lovers of colonial art and as necessary to their home as the Dutch oven of 100 years ago sold at \$12.

Price Guessing Hard

With a hooked rug at \$12 came the declaration "it's worth more" A Victorian upholstered chair came to the stand that the "Mrs." judged might sell for \$75 and advanced under the auctioneer's pressure to \$90. Her next guess on an old banister back chair was as bad the other way. We hold no criticisms. To guess what one will pay for a given article at an auction is equal to a guess on the weather and just about as reliable. Eight reproduction stenciled rush seat Hitchcock chairs, which the auctioneer said were hard to tell from the original, started off with an \$8 bid per chair, this was slowly followed by one dollar ups until they reached fifteen. There the price hung in mid air for a time and thought all was over but the auctioneer finally wrested another low dollar from a young couple on the front seat, to follow this along by lively competitive bidding to \$23. Our young home makers could not raise another dollar to make it \$24 and went sorrowfully away leaving their seats to other bargain hunters. A three-seated wicker porch couch was started at \$10 and stopped at the figure 25 and hesitated momentarily when the auctioneer declared "we are giving it away." With this encouragement several seemed to want to be the recipient of something given away and nodded every time the auctioneer looked at them until we heard him say \$73 and sold.

A wing chair reached the figure of \$25 when the bidding came to a dead stop; however, Mr. Bean, remembering the stimulus to the bargain hunter the last time when he said "we are giving it away" used the same ruse and picked up another \$9 to add to the \$25.

Picnic Lunch Under the Trees

At 12:30 a recess of 30 minutes was called, the company broke up, some to gain a lunch from the refreshment bar and others to sit in the shade of some tree to enjoy their picnic lunch. It was the latter that took our attention. We picked a seat on an old stone wall sheltered by the extended branches of the sturdy oak. We sat here to eat our lunch, meanwhile musing of the days gone by when someone's grandfather of 3 or 4 generations ago with his hard knuckled hand had dug these stones from the fields and laid them into a wall that will stand for generations to come, as truly a memorial to his sturdy character as any marble slab. With this reverie we ate our lunch and drank the coffee from the Thermos bottle, leaving the shells of the hard boiled eggs among the stones for the chipmunks. Now the time was up and we hastened with others to take our seats to witness the afternoon battle of values between the auctioneer and his patrons. The first article offered for sale after the lunch was a bed-warming pan which sold at a minimum figure. Evidently a hot day in August was not conducive to an interest in warming pans. A typewriter starting at \$10 soon reached \$25 to a hesitant bidder, then the auctioneer said "I will come back to you later," as he picked up a bid of \$26 elsewhere and carried the price on to \$37.

A basket pattern quilt that reminded us of the "butterfly quilt" at the Cushman auction moved on one dollar bids to \$10. With a step ladder came the query, "Will it hold up?" One of the helpers substituted for Mr. Bean the auctioneer (who is slightly on the portly side) to make the adventure of climbing the steps, and thus proved it sturdy qualities to the satisfaction of the questioner.

Buys Truck of Dress Goods

A rock maple double bed with box springs that looked like new, attractive enough to grace any bedroom, sold at \$58. An old hingeless trunk apparently full of pieces of cloth and dress goods interested my gambling instinct and found me the owner at \$2.25. There might be a Washington button worth \$10 or the first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" for which the "Mrs." is still looking, good for \$50. Our search on arriving home did not find these but we did find an abundance of

material for our neighbor, braided rugs and cloth for two dozen doll dresses, in the making of which she is a skillful artist. A package of old books caught the "Mrs." eye and at the suggestion from the auctioneer of 50 cents she quickly gave the nod and had the books. I might say they were not a bad buy at that. One of which, a leather bound book printed at the theater in Oxford, England at the Half Moon in St. Paul's churchyard in 1713 and another of a 1700 print for which the "Mrs." received 50 cents from an Amherst College buyer. The auctioneer pleaded with the patrons not to let the electric stove get away from them at any \$25, saying it had cooked the breakfast that morning and the washing machine offered, he himself saw washing clothes the day before as well as the mangle ironing. "Let me make up your mind for you," he pleaded as hesitant buyers let him have but one dollar at a time to reach figures less than \$40 on each.

Return Trip Through Munson

So the auction came to a close with our pocket book not too badly deflated either by using good or poor judgment. Now we retrieved our books of "Scientific Knowledge and Philosophy of Life" from the feet of our chairs and came away to make our return trip through Munson as was planned in the morning. The evening dinner with the cousins was all that could be desired, topped with those delectable blueberry muffins. After an hour's visit and delving into their collection of buttons and stamps, we reluctantly bade adieu to our friends and returned to our Amherst home closing an anniversary day if not in an orthodox way, at least in a way to be pleasantly remembered by the "Mrs." and your correspondent.

WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION

CELEBRATES 40TH BIRTHDAY

(August 10, 1951)

The 40th anniversary of the extension of the Amherst water system into South Amherst comes this year. It was in 1911 that the Amherst Water Company extended their water pipe lines from Mill Valley to the south along West Street for one and one half miles and over Shays Street by the Village Green into South East Street for two miles. In this way aqueduct water for fire and household purposes was brought within reach of the major part of the inhabitants of South Amherst.

The need of a water supply to extinguish fires was well illustrated in the story in the journal of June 29, which showed the devastation caused by the fire of July 4, 1879 to the business blocks on South Pleasant Street.

This fire prompted immediate action by the townspeople to provide an adequate supply of water for protection in the future against fire. The Amherst Water Company was formed and moved with such speed that on May 1, 1880, only ten months after the fire on July 4th of the preceding year, they had built a Reservoir in Pelham and dug a trench, by hand labor, three and one half miles in length to the corner of Amity Street in which had been laid the water mains through which water was to come into Amherst.

It was thirty-one long years after this in 1911 before the pipes were extended beyond Mill Valley to conduct water into South Amherst.

In the years since 1911 several houses have by the use of this water been saved from a conflagration, one of which is close by the village green, an old dignified colonial structure now owned by George Bastow. In this respect we can hardly over estimate the value of this water system to those residences within its reach.

However, this is not the only benefit derived from the water system. The value of it to the householder can better be realized when it is compared to that of a well from which to draw water by the old oaken bucket or pump.

The insecurity of a steady supply of water from the common well in times of drought, in the districts where the water mains have not been laid, has caused many to seek their supply from the artesian well. This type of well, drilled at great depths into the substrata of the earth to tap some underground vein of water, has usually furnished the necessary supply. We note here that this deep bored or drilled well called an artesian well, takes its name from a province in France by that name where such wells had long been used.

The first well of this type in South Amherst was the one that the late Walter M. Howland, treasurer of Amherst College, had drilled about 1909 at his home in South Amherst. Although this proved to be a dry well, in other words no underground supply was found, four others, the Messrs. Pomeroy, Merrick, Whitcomb and Sherman had wells drilled in 1910 at their homes and found a full supply for their needs. The reader will note that this was only one year before running water from the Amherst water mains was brought to their doors. Water at the Merrick well rose to an elevation sufficient to enter the house without pumping. Water at the Pomeroy well rose above the ground surface but needed to be pumped for the household use as did the other two. These wells were in use but a short period of time for, when the Amherst Water Company laid their water mains into South Amherst, a change was soon made to the aqueduct water which did away with the necessary pumping of the wellwater.

These water mains were not and have not as yet been extended into the Bay Road district. To supply the need of a better supply here, there have been in late years a dozen or more artesian wells drilled by the property owners along the Bay Road at the foothills of the Mount Holyoke Range. The depth of these wells ranges from 150 to 400 feet, usually about 200. They all enter into a substrata of red sandstone, which scientists tell us may be two to four thousand feet thick.

The well of James Schoonmaker on Middle Street was drilled to a depth of 665 feet without finding any appreciable flow of water. Two others on the Bay Road of 400 feet in depth are not entirely satisfactory but most of the wells furnish an abundant supply. The one on the side of the mountain at the Hide-Out, summer of Mr. Weidhaas of Easthampton, is of a depth of 177 feet. The first 104 feet is through gravel and then 73 feet into the sandstone rock, to a strata that carries water. Here water rises to within 60 feet of the surface and from there is pumped.

Again the scientist tells us that after the first 55 feet down the earth's temperature rises one degree for each 55 feet thereafter. Just how far down one would need to go to get boiling water, we will let the mathematician figure out. Just how many dollars go down into one of these wells at five, six, seven, or eight dollars per foot is easily computed, but more difficult to pay. The economic benefits derived from the Amherst water supply that came to South Amherst 40 years ago for both fire and domestic service, no mathematician can fully estimate.

We have electric lights, telephones, and automobiles, but what stands head and shoulders above all others in value to the people and the last one to be surrendered is aqueduct water. We look forward to the time when the Amherst water lines will be so extended that every householder may have access to this source of supply. It is well that we recognize in this year of 1951 the act of the men of vision who 40 years ago planned for this never failing supply of running water to South Amherst, an anniversary of which it is well to take note.

A letter just received from George Morell of California, a boyhood resident of South Amherst on the farm

by the Green until his home was burned in 1898, depicts boyhood experiences of the cleaning of the well of water. The letter opens, "I still take the Amherst Journal. Your stories are most interesting to me especially those dealing with the far away days when I lived on the Green, the ways of which are no more.

"They remind me also that Herb and I as a team cleaned out many wells around the Green at a dollar each, big money in those days for youngsters in their early teens. First we pumped the well dry, then lowered a candle on a string to expose any gas or foul air. If the candle went out we stayed out. Next, if the well's diameter was fairly large, we lowered a ladder. If the diameter was small, we went down using the retaining stones of the wall for foot support and hugging the wooden pump cylinder.

"In our division of labor Herb stayed at the wellhead doing the heavy hauling up, while I worked at the bottom doing the cleaning. Usually about six inches of water remained in the well after pumping and this had to be bailed out with bucket and rope. Then came the scraping to remove all foreign objects and leave a clean sandy bottom. Surprising things were found. I recall picking up bottles, a brush, the remains of a corset, a comb, the skeletons of small animals, presumably rats or squirrels, and skeletons of snakes, a cat and a skunk. The well at the post office yielded the richest collection. How did we ever survive the drinking of such water? In those days everybody drank at the post office-pump. It's a far cry from the quiet Green of those days to the present."

Your correspondent can authenticate similar experiences to those of Mr. Morell and, no doubt, drank of the cooling waters of the post office well, we hope after George and Herb had done their cleansing job.

Footnote by the editor
(Herb, probably Herb Dwight).

Farm Journal

and COUNTRY GENTLEMAN



When the maples turn golden, children go back to school, a cover for "Farm Journal" by John Vondell, October 1956

THE MAGAZINE FARM FAMILIES DEPEND ON

OCTOBER 1956

Three children "imported" by the photographer, John Vondell, for Bill Shumway's regular bus stop at Atkins are: Jean Jung, Bay Rd., Robin Bleckwehl and Sharon Nanartonis, both from West Street.

CORRESPONDENT TRACES EVOLUTION OF SO. AMHERST SCHOOLS

(August 31, 1951)

Your correspondent has been asked to write into a story the historical life of the public schools of South Amherst. With this in mind, we have gathered information from the Morehouse *History of Amherst*, town reports, personal solicitation, and memory to make our story.

In 1776, the East district of Hadley assumed the name of Amherst and was so legally made in 1777. Before this, as a district of Hadley, she voted in 1764 to build four school houses — one North (Amherst), one South (Amherst), one East Middle (East Amherst), and one West Middle (Amherst Center). This vote gave South Amherst one school. In 1791 it was voted to build another schoolhouse on the East Street, and in 1792 one on the West Street in South Amherst. We now had three schools and three buildings south of Fort River with pupils ranging in age from five years on and a curriculum from ABC to XYZ. This shows that the number of schools had increased in South Amherst from one in 1764 to three in 1791. This number did not change until 1862 when the schools were graded and a grammar building was erected at the corner of Middle Street and Potwine Lane, where the grammar school was maintained until the two-room brick building was erected at the Green in 1901.

Mill Valley

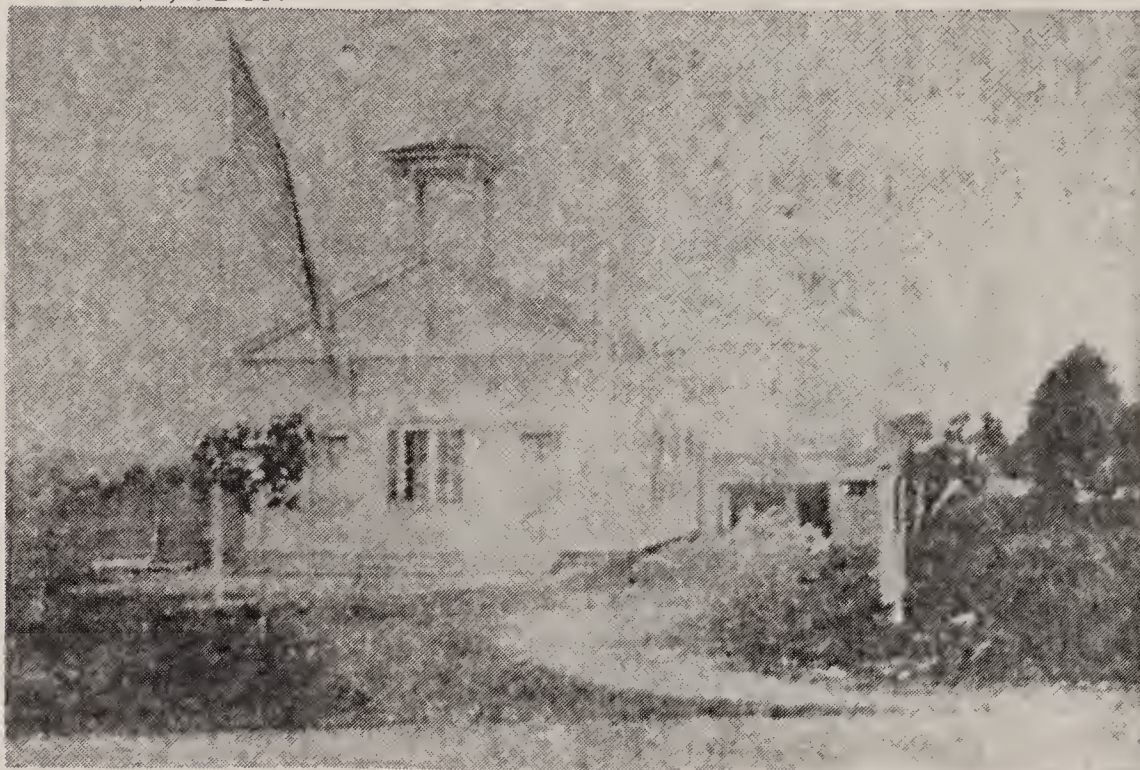
Another school which should be mentioned is that of Mill Valley located on the north side of the Fort River near the present car barns, a school which many from West Street and Shays Street attended. Miss Mary Lineham attended this school and recalls the extent of the District on the south side of the river which included a part of West Street and Shays Street, the pupils of which attended this Mill Valley school. The last town report of this school was in 1891. This report did not give any statistics but it was on record that Miss G.H. Phillips was the teacher. Mrs. Melrose Paige recalls attending the school and having as a teacher Miss Grace Phillips.

West Street School

The first school building to be closed because of lack of pupils in South Amherst and the pupils placed in other schools was that of West Street in 1894. At this time the town report gave the average attendance of this school as 8.96 pupils. These in 1895 were transported in fall and spring by horse bus conveyance to the school at the Green by Miss Addie P. Hastings, a former school teacher. Mr. George O. Hannum substituted in the winter season when the elements of weather made the trip hazardous for a woman. Soon after the installation of the electric railway in 1902 the pupils were transferred to the Amherst Center Schools by electric car. The West Street school was maintained in this location from 1792 to 1894, a period of 102 years. The school building stood on land leased for school purposes. When the school was discontinued the building became the property of the owner of the land on which it was located and was moved back to a new location to become a part of the farm buildings which now may be seen from the West Street highway. This property is owned by Mr. Roland Hebert.

Grammar School

The second building, the foundations of which are still evident, to be closed was the Grammar school in 1901 at the corner of Potwine Lane and Middle Street, also built on leased land. When the building was no longer used for school purposes, it reverted to the land owner who is now Mr. Herbert Cook. The building was sold as a private residence but burned in 1910. It had served the need of the grammar school from the time the schools were first graded in 1861 to 1901, a stretch of 40 years. The pupils were now transferred into the new two-room building at the Green built in 1901 at a cost of \$6,492.85.



Grammar school, built 1861, in constant use until 1902, stood at the corner of Potwine and Middle Street, east of Middle Street, on Cook's land. The flag flies from the pole and wood for the stove is piled in the open shed. The building burned down in 1910. (C.D.)

South East Street School

The third school to be closed because of the lack of pupils was the one on South East Street in the year 1905. The town report gives the average attendance of pupils at this time as 10.6. This school building had now served the purpose for 114 years. These pupils were then transferred by horse and bus conveyance for a time and later by atuo bus to the Village



SOUTH EAST STREET SCHOOL—The school house built in 1901 on South East Street was the last one room school house to be used in the South Amherst school system. The school was built by F. L. Pomero; and cost the town a total of \$1,604.50.

(Amherst Journal)

Green school. The late Charles J. King drove the bus for twenty-five consecutive years and it is now driven by Winfred O. Shumway. At present the High School scholars and some from the intermediate grades are carried on to the Center schools.

This school building reverted to the land owner, as it, like the West Street building, was on leased land. This building was later sold for a residence and is now occupied and owned by Joseph Kershlis of South East Street. It was built by the late F.L. Pomeroy to replace one that burned in 1901 at a cost of \$1,604.50. The school was in this or previous buildings until it was abandoned and the pupils transferred to the new two-room building at the Green.



Charles King, driver of the school bus for 25 years,
consenting to a picture, in front of Hawthorne's.
Early '30's, (Geo. Hawthorne)

Village Green Schoolhouse

The fourth building to be abandoned was the one-room building at the Village Green in 1901 when these pupils went into the new building by its side. We think the site of this one-room building was the same as that first taken in 1764. Undoubtedly the building itself had been renewed more than once. Miss Mary Pomeroy tells us that her father, the late F.L. Pomeroy, told her that this was a two-story building at one time and that the upper story was a hall. We read from original records that a meeting of the South Amherst Lyceum in 1839 was held in the hall of the schoolhouse. A meeting of the Temperance Association is recorded as meeting here in 1835. The organization of the South Church Society and the vote to build a church in 1824 took place in this building. In the 1866 town report there is an item of \$680.44 for the remodeling of this schoolhouse. We think the top story was taken off at this time.



South Amherst Grade School — built 1902. (E.S.P.)

So. Amherst Grade School Built 1901

In 1861 when the schools were graded and the High School in Amherst opened, there were 56 pupils in the South Green district, 31 in the West Street, and 50 in the South East district. What a teacher could do with 56 pupils in grades from A to Z, and in one room, is a mystery in this day and generation. Mr. Morehouse comments on the grading "as being complicated in that the older pupils were not necessarily qualified to join the advanced grades, thus causing dissatisfaction among the parents" and we would venture more among the students. He comments further "that the work was well done is to the lasting credit of the town and school committee."



Amherst High School (which W.H. Atkins and one other South Amherst boy attended by foot or horse in 1888.) Burned down in 1910. (Courtesy Clarence Parsons)



Amherst High School on Lessey Street. Opened 1916. (Jones Library)

In 1846 the town voted for an exchange of the district libraries, one with another. This reminds us of the little school library and case sold at the Fitts auction for \$25.

In 1866 the town voted to install lightning rods on all the school houses, an unproven lightning arrester at that time. This represented progress and advanced thinking among the leaders of that day.

1887 was the first year the town allowed aid in transportation to the High School. This was at 50 cents per week — to spend or use as one wished. The two boys from South Amherst of that year of which this writer was one, sometimes walked and sometimes had Dad's horse. The sleigh turning over in a snow drift, scattering boys, books, and dinner pails, with horse and sleigh disappearing around the bend, was but one of the school day experiences.

In 1872 it was voted by the school board that hereafter the only corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a pupil shall be by "rattan or ruler upon the hand." We wonder what this other method might have been, a box on the ears, or a switch to the bare legs. Evidently some teacher had been using unorthodox methods. We wonder if not with some justification, as you have just read that the enrollment in a one-room school might be as high as 56. This certainly required some stern measures to maintain order. The writer well remembers the use of the switch and ferule, the latter he got for going in bathing against the school rules. A wet head of hair was the incriminating evidence.

We have found in summarizing the figures given in the foregoing article that West Street School opened in 1792, discontinued in 1894, time 102 years; South East School opened in 1791, discontinued in 1905, time 114 years; Grammar School opened in 1862, discontinued in 1902, time 40 years; South Green School opened in 1764 and continued into the new two room building in 1902.

AUCTION LOVERS GIVEN TREAT

AT CLEAN OUT SALE Adams' House.

(September 28, 1951)



George Bean calls for a bid on a parlor chair made by Hosea Goodale, Fred Adams' grandfather. (Amherst Journal)

Auction lovers were given a treat on Saturday, September 22 when a clean out sale took place at the home of Fred C. Adams. Mr. Adams, a man past eighty, had been a long-time resident, coming to South Amherst at the age of five with his parents when his father, Luther Adams, purchased the old home on the Bay Road that had been the possession of the family for many years, his great grandfather having been its previous owner in the eighteenth century. After Mr. Fred Adams married, he bought and moved on to the place by the village green where the auction was held.

The auction setting was ideal in every way. The day, one of those warm September days when one was comfortable either in or out of the sun's rays. A partially shaded lawn on which were placed chairs to provide for all, facing the village green, across which stood the old New England church and the Munson Library. The household furnishings with their historical background brought together many antique lovers that we see at every auction of this type.

A large group had assembled before the auction hour of 10:30 to see what might especially interest them. Mr. Bean took his stand promptly at the hour and called out, "Everyone find his seat." He jocularly suggested to a lady doing fancy work, who made a motion of the arm as of a bid, "You are going to spend a lot of money today if you keep doing that."

The first article to be offered for the competitive bid was a most attractively decorated fireplace hand bellows of long family associations. Following this was the gun of Revolutionary War fame that Mr. Adams told the auctioneer had come from his uncle's attic. This created a great deal of interest in both those in the competitive bidding up to a 20 dollar figure and the patrons in general because of its historic connection.

A blanket chest, which had the name of Mr. Adams' great grandfather, Hosea Goodale, inscribed in bold letters on its back, was most likely built by Mr. Goodale, who was a woodworking mechanic and had a shop on the the Bay Road close by his residence. Here he made furniture and wagons. A parlor chair in Mr. Adams' home that was made by Mr. Goodale and stenciled by his daughter, Louise, the

grandmother of Mr. Adams, was next offered. The date of this was not far from 1825. The chair was of interest not only due to its historic connection but because of the artistic skill shown in the making and in the stenciling. You will see the picture of the chair in this *Journal* as Mr. Bean is holding it at the auction stand, offering it to the highest bidder. Competitive bidding on this was keen. The chair was finally awarded to Mrs. William Russell, Sr., of Shays Street. We are pleased that fate destined the chair to remain in South Amherst, its original home.

Many of the articles offered to the patrons had family historical connections. From a sampler, made by an aunt of Mr. Adams, Mr. Bean read to the patrons the inscriptions and commented that he had rarely seen one with the lettering so distinct. A cherry Penbrook drop leaf table, that the "Mrs." whispered should sell for fifty dollars, topped the figure of \$67. A desk of the period of 1790 started at \$100 and advanced by 25 dollar jumps to \$200, then quieted down to \$10 advances to \$230 and then by fives to \$250. From there it increased by two and one half dollar bids. As the offers advanced slowly and hesitatingly, the patrons were all excitement as to who would be the winner, even as in the ninth inning of a ball game. The auctioneer kept the pressure on first one and then the other to a figure of \$280 when he got no further response and the exciting contest was over.

Now at 12:30 a recess of 30 minutes for lunch was called. Some brought their own and picnicked on the grounds while others patronized the refreshment booth at which sandwiches, ice cream, and drinks could be procured. At sharp 1 o'clock the patrons retook their seats of the morning, with the auctioneer at his stand, and the bookkeeper at her desk.

To name but a few more of the many interesting articles, there was the four-post bedstead of an unusual scroll top design that was quickly bid to a \$37 figure. A Boston rocker in perfect condition sold on a competitive bid of \$20 with the auctioneer's remark, "At that you steal it."

Mr. Bean tried to assist the secretary in computing the sale of 8 plates at \$1.75 each, "Suggest - \$12, or is it 14, or 16?" and then let it go as too much of a problem. A bar room chair valued at \$10 sold for \$9. Mr. Bean questioned his own judgment in declaring a secretary's desk as of butternut wood and said "It is tree wood anyway." A spindleback wagon seat, that could tell stories both happy and sad, met a ready sale as a fireplace seat.

The "Mrs." contented herself with buying a decorated saucer at \$1.25, on which was the picture of the John Hancock house, and a Lincoln stovepipe hat at \$1.00. Your correspondent curbed his auction fever with a good handsaw for the farm and a trunk full of varied costumes at \$1.00 to go with the hat. By the way, the "Mrs." has rummaged through the trunk and brought forth costumes for the various shows a small community might stage. A dainty hat for a bridesmaid and a gown to go with it, a basque and hooped skirt (whatever they may be) were among the varied assortment. We will turn them all over to a younger generation than the "Mr. and Mrs." for their pleasure.

An old one horse sleigh of several generations back did not meet with any enthusiasm on a snowless September day. Given the gift of tongues it could no doubt have told of the hurried trips to the doctor by Dobbin and his master, to the church over and through the drifting snow, and if not sworn to secrecy, the story of courtships of youth tucked in under the Buffalo robe with a driverless horse, but the old sleigh could not talk to arouse any interest and it was sold at a minimum figure.

As the last article was sold and the sale came to a close at 3:30, along with all the enjoyment of the day, there reverberates a sad note as we witness a long time home broken up and closed after many years standing as a monument of uprightness by the Village Green.

SHUFFLED BUILDINGS CHANGE LIVES

(November 2, 1951)

A house once built, we expect, is permanently located, but this is not always true as was demonstrated this spring when a large house on North Pleasant Street was moved a short distance and placed on a new foundation. This was an educational sight to those who had never before had the opportunity to watch the mechanics of such an undertaking.

In our neighboring town of Hadley a church on West Street was moved to Russell Street in 1913 to make the present Polish Catholic Church. The moving of this was engineered by our own building craftsman, the late F.L. Pomeroy.

In the following are enumerated some of the changes that have taken place in the location of buildings in our own community which, though not spectacular, have entered into the changing life of the people.

Church Becomes Barn

A small Methodist Church at the corner of South East Street and the Bay Road, referred to in a recent issue of the *Journal*, was moved in 1875, and converted into a barn to adjoin the old brick schoolhouse residence close by. These were burned in 1929.

Also mentioned in the *Journal* was the old cider brandy distillery that became outdated in 1824 by the manufacture of more potent drinks. We read that several yoke of oxen spirited this away on the snow one winter day to a new location on the Bay Road. Here it had a face lifting and internal cleansing to become a virtuous member of the community and has since been reconstructed into the attractive cottage of Mr. Paul Wheelock.

The attractive cottage of Arthur Tidlund, Jr., on South East Street was once a country store operated by the proprietor of the nearby distillery. This was moved onto new foundations 125 years ago.

The Truman Nutting house of the 18th century, corner of Mechanic Street and Bay Road, was cut in twain in 1866, one half of which was moved across the road and is now occupied by the town's electric wire inspector, Sherman King. The other half eventually came to rest on the Atkins farm and is now occupied by Mr. Everett Dimock and family.



The Paul Wheelock home on Bay Rd, once a distillery on So. East Street. (H.M.)



The A. Tidlund home, a country store in 1825. (A.T.)



One part of this house dates back to the 18th century; now owned by Sherwin King. 1972 (H.M.)

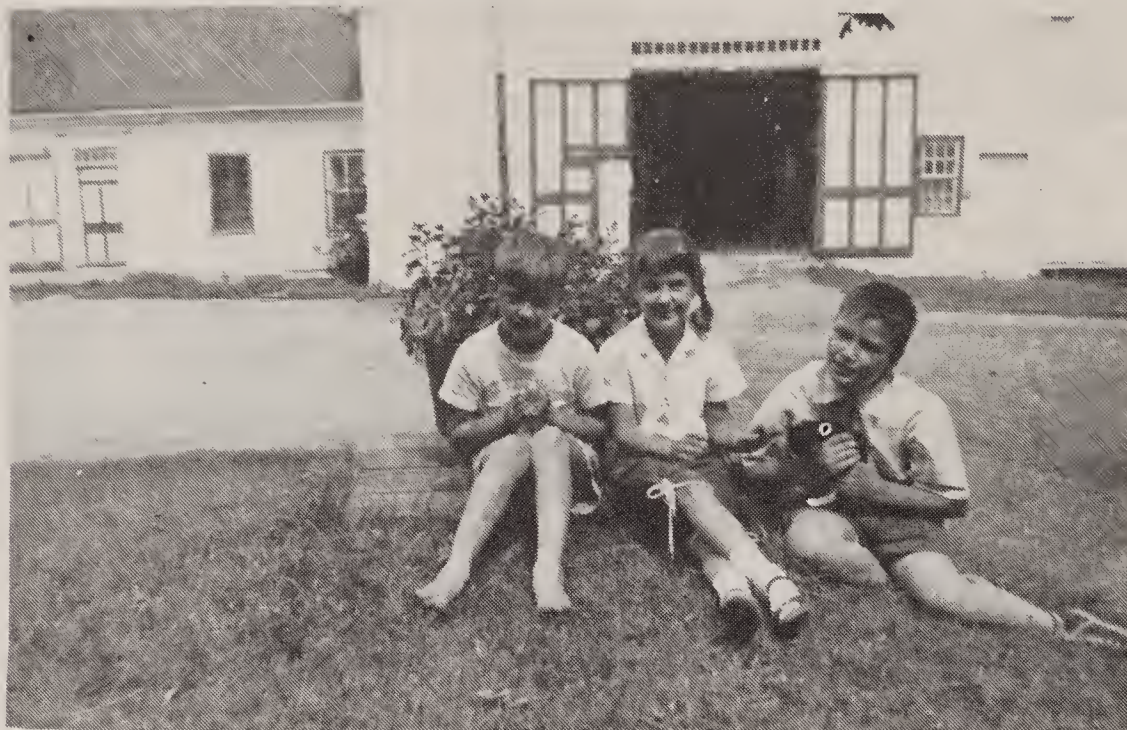


The center section of the Dimock (Tiffany) house, moved here in early '20's, from its location on Mechanic St. Known as Hoyt house. (H.M.)

Ell Dismembered and Moved

The late F.J. Hillman of West Street, at one time owner of the Durelle Swan house, dismembered the ell from the upright 40 years ago and moved it to a new location on the street where it is now the home of William Ives and family.

When the present house of W.H. Atkins was built in 1905 the old one-story colonial was moved back and incorporated into the farm buildings, thus losing its identity as a home.



Sandy Poole, Karen Elliott, Billy Poole with some kittens, sitting in front of Grandma's Howard Star Petunias abloom in an iron kettle over the old Hammond-Atkins well. Section to rear left was original house, moved back to become horsebarn 1905.



View south down Middle Street.
Mary Barton and a dog, 1939

(Parsonage part of cluster ahead.) (R.C.S.)

In 1904 the two-story front to the parsonage was separated from the ell and relocated on Middle Street to make what is now the home of Anthony Marco. This was replaced by a new front with architectural features of the 19th century. A thousand dollars was given at the time by a benevolent parishioner for this change, but today a thousand would be given to have back the old original front, which was in harmony with the colonial architecture of the other houses about the village green.



Main part of the Marco house, facing Middle St., was once the front of parsonage facing So. Congo church, until 1904. (H.M.)

When the West Street school was closed, the building reverted to the owners of the land on which it stood and was moved back as a part of the farm buildings. This may be seen today by an observant eye on the Roland Hebert farm.



The (Johnson, S. Parker) Roland Herbert property on West St. that had at one time, as one of the farm buildings, the early West St. schoolhouse, maintained 1792-1894. (H.M.)

The burning of an old time residence over across the railroad tracks on Depot Road, a mile east of the Common, called forth the sympathies of the community. This resulted in the purchase and transportation of a small cottage from Middle Street for the temporary housing of the stricken family.

After Fire New Shop Moved In

In the horse and buggy days a blacksmith shop with a smith in attendance was of first importance to a community. When the shop on what is now G.E. Erickson's property burned in 1895, a shop shaded by an old maple tree on the present McIntyre farm was bought and moved to its present location opposite the site of the one burned. This is now operated by Ernest E. Whitcomb, the last horse shoeing shop in town.



The last blacksmith shop in Amherst, standing just north and west of Win Shumway's - a landmark that should have been preserved. This was moved here by Chas. Shaw from site near MacIntire's on Bay Road at turn of century. Razed in 1966. (Naomi Atkins)



Frances "Bunny" King in fore ground. This house was moved across the street, (set near site of tobacco barn blown down in 1938 hurricane) further remodeled by the Norman MacLeods. (Both from N.M.)

Horse sheds were a common accessory to every church fifty years ago, and so it was in South Amherst. Tradition has it that the Yankee horse trading under the horse shed did not always follow the Golden Rule taught within the church! However that may be, the sheds were sold and rolled away in 1929.



Bartering For Tin Peddler's Treasures

MARCH 7, 1952



The late Bert Whitcomb is shown driving the last tin peddler's cart which traveled Amherst to barter with thrifty housewives and exchange tin pans, basins, dippers, ladles, baby rattles, pencils, and thread for rags and rubber. Mr. Whitcomb was at one time employed as a driver by Jared Gould from Enfield who owned eleven of these now extinct carts.

(Amherst Journal)

Salesmanship and methods of distribution are continually undergoing changes. The one time tin peddler cart has vanished from the road. The sights within the cart, with its load of shining tinware, was of as much interest to the boys and girls of the early days as the movie is to those of today. The wagon body of this vehicle stood in height to the top of a man's head. The doors of the cart opened down on either side exposing the glistening tinware to the gaze of the captivated onlooker.

It was a gala day when the tin peddler arrived at the farm home, perhaps twice a year, to supply the wants of the household and kitchen. The arrival of the cart was the signal to the housewife to bring out the accumulation of rags and old rubbers to trade for the household articles. It was now that the barter began for some coveted article from miscellaneous assortment. Little money exchanged hands. Sometimes when the value of the rags and rubbers did not cover the items wanted, eggs and dried apples entered into the trade.

The "Mrs." with memory running back into her childhood days gives us the picture of one owned by Jared Gould of the neighboring town of Enfield, who had a fleet of eleven carts covering a wide range of territory. The driver was a short, dumpy, unshaven man, with hoary hair, rosy cheeks and a twinkle in his eye. She further states how, perched high upon his seat, he guided his old white horse on the way. Here, too, with his right hand he pulled the brake lever back another notch as he came down the long winding hill by her home in Belchertown and stopped in the driveway under the old cherry tree.

He wound the reins around the old whip socket and slowly came down from his high perch and opened the doors to the hidden treasures that fascinated her as she gazed within upon the shining contents. The standard cart carried tin pans, basins,

dippers, ladles, baby rattles and other tin ware, pens, pencils, pencil holders, and stationery. Combs, thread and needles were not lacking. It was from within the recesses of the cart that the tin pails, tea pots and fly traps came tumbling out. The latter when used fascinated the children as they watched the fly march into the trap, seeking bread and molasses never to come out. Wire baskets were also sold and used to cover the table food from the ever present fly. For musical instruments there was the jewsharp, tuning fork and harmonica. Mosquito netting for the windows was readily sought by the thrifty housewife but objected to by one recluse saying, "I don't want to breath screened air."

Wash boilers, both tin and copper, found a place in his supplies, sometimes on the roof of the cart along with brooms and mop handles. Here too were carried the sacks of rags that the peddler has secured in his bartering with the farmer's wife. Rubber and copper as well as rags were ever in the trade and piled in sacks on the rear platform extension of the cart.

We note here that, the peddler gathered not only rags on his travels but the news of the day from neighboring homes as he drove from town to town. And so he was able to dispense not only tin ware but information of the births, deaths, marriages and courtships that were always of startling interest.

All this is of the past. The tin peddler's cart, loaded with the glistening and fascinating products of the unknown world, has gone never to return. The five and ten cent store has taken its place. In this *Journal* you will see a picture of the last one to rove the streets of Amherst. This was the late Bert Whitcomb of Amherst who at one time was employed by Jared Gould to drive one of his eleven carts. Mr. Gage informs us that this Jared Gould of Enfield had a small shop where he made tin ware that supplied his trade. So ends the story of the tin peddler's cart now gone forever.



The Town Farm when Henry Dickinson was in charge. Left wing removed in the 1930's.
Left to right, Mrs. Bolter, Mrs. Henry Dickinson, Henry and his son Carl Dickinson with the team. (Carl worked as ticket agent at the Railroad Station on Depot Rd. until 1901 when he moved to California.) (Clara Dwight)

SOME OF AMHERST NEEDY AUCTIONED OFF IN FORMER DAYS

(April 25, 1952)

It may be of historical interest to the townspeople that this year of 1952 is the seventieth anniversary of the fire that consumed the almshouse and farm buildings in South Amherst, in which a home for many of the town's poor had been maintained for many years. This calls our attention to the various methods or plans that have been used by the town in caring for its needy during the past.

We read from Judd's History of Hadley and Amherst of the various ways followed previously to this date by our early forefathers. Mr. Judd goes on to say that for a long time they had no poor that required aid. However, the records show that one Timothy Webster was aided in 1679 and again in 1685; that Thomas Elgarr, a soldier in the Indian Wars, was boarded from place to place at 4 shillings per week; and that in 1687, when the Widow Baldwin was "poor and infirm", the town voted that she should "board round" the town "to such as were able to receive her for two weeks each." Other instances of "round the town" are reported. The care of some was sold to the lowest bidder as "Major John Smith bid off 8 persons and agreed to board and clothe them for a year for 88 pounds and to return them at a year's end as well clothed as when he takes them." The next year the town voted to "sell them to the lowest bidder, singly or in pairs."

In 1778 the town voted that the selectmen should build a house for the town's poor of such size as they deemed wise near Clark's Mill (now the Old Grist Mill) at Mill Valley. This was not done and we find that, as late as 1807, two of the poor were auctioned off, one of whom was a revolutionary soldier, for their keep to the lowest bidder. In 1828 the overseers advertised two girls, eight and ten years old, that they would bind out until 18 and that they were ready to receive proposals for the support of the individual poor that had not already been contracted. It was in 1838 that the town did what it had voted in 1778 and that was to buy and maintain a farm home for the "town paupers", the term used in those days.

It would seem that up to this time those unable to care for themselves were pushed out upon the mercy of their fellowmen with as little expense to the town as possible, even to the auctioning of some to the lowest bidder. The change to a farm home idea may have been for economy, but it was also better than to be sold out to the lowest bidder. The farm that was bought was one of Medad Vinton in South Amherst in 1838 at a cost of \$3636. A warden was hired to supervise the care of those sent to the townfarm, he to receive his sustenance and \$230 per year. In the year 1847 the number supported or relieved was 25. The cost of those at the farm was 75 cents per week and \$1.07 for those still boarded out. It would seem that in some cases they were still aided in private homes.

In 1885 the number of 38 is given as the town's poor, those at the alms house at cost of \$1.54 per week and those supported outside at \$1.63. There was appropriated \$20 yearly for "pastoral instruction." This appropriation was later increased to \$50 and paid to the local parish. The Morehouse History tells of an epidemic of small pox in 1864 and that 25 of the town poor were affected. It is not stated if these were all at the almshouse, but we find five years later in 1869 that there were five cases among the town poor supported at Springfield and Worcester hospitals. It was in this year of 1869 that a new and more commodious house was built at the farm.

On January 1, 1882 a catastrophe came to the new buildings in the form of a fire when the almshouse, barn and buildings were burned to the ground. It was Sunday morning at the time of the services in the nearby church that the fire started. Mr. Fred Adams of South Amherst, then a boy of fifteen, who was attending the church services with his parents, well remembers the excitement of the occasion as the call of fire was brought to them by one of the inmates, Ruth Hall, who later admitted that she had set the blaze. The late Rev. Chas. S. Walker was pastor of the South Church at that time. We imagine that the prayer of supplication and Thanksgiving was cut short into one of action.

Although a goodly number rushed out of the church over to the townfarm at the call of fire, they were helpless to stem the blaze and it soon had the house as well as the barn in its clutches. Aqueduct water for fire protection had reached Amherst village at this date but not South Amherst. As January 1st was no time to stand about in the cold the people

rallied to the wants of those driven from their home and soon had them safely housed with nearby neighbors and in the vestry of the church where bedding and food was brought for their temporary comforts. Two days later the inmates were transferred to temporary quarters in North Amherst. After a three months' stay, they were returned to South Amherst and on July 1, 1882 entered the new house built for them on the site of the old foundation. This was built with a north wing for women and an east wing for the men with two rooms for the insane.

It is well to note here that the late George M. Howard was warden at this time and that his daughter, Miss Alice Howard now of 815 Main Street, Amherst remembers as a little girl going to North Amherst with her parents as a result of the fire. We read from the town report of this disaster in 1882 these words, "The services of Mr. and Mrs. Howard have been very valuable to the town this year, the welfare of the paupers is safe in the care of such people. Everything in their power has been done to make them happy and comfortable."

We find in subsequent records that the Almshouse continued to care for those, usually eight or ten in number, who were not provided for in other ways. As the years went by the numbers decreased and the costs increased until the common saying was that they could be boarded cheaper at the hotel. This brought about a vote of the town to sell the farm which took place in 1914. At this time there were four inmates, two of whom died the following year. The policy of aiding the needy in their own homes or in that of their friends was now the acceptable way as it had been in part in the past, thus removing the stigma and fear of becoming what was referred to as a town pauper.

The cost to the town for aid to those in need was always listed with the name of the recipient in the pauper account. We find in the 1912 account the bills of Dr. Rawson, Stowell, Rockwell and Barrows for medical aid with the names of the recipients also in the general expense accounts such as: John Smith, overalls .75; Eliza Smith, groceries \$25; John Smith children, shoes \$3; and of course the names of those at the town farm. The publishing of all of this individual data and the designation as the "pauper" account was discontinued in 1912 and the words "public welfare" substituted.

The cost to the town in 1913 of their welfare department was \$5424.65. Since that date the bureaus of Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children have been established, which bring an increased number of persons under public welfare who were not included in 1913. The Federal Government and the State assist in the Old Age and Dependent Children programs, but not in the general welfare program.

There was expended under these two bureaus in 1951, \$107,053.83 of which the town's share was \$18,637.61. Under the general relief program of 1951 there is the item of \$9,470.96, making a total expenditure of over \$28,000, plus some administration expenses under the heading "Charities" in the Amherst Town Report.

Perhaps there is no account more cheerfully paid than this one of welfare. The thinking in humanitarian ways has taken a long step since the early days. The step to an almshouse was better than the auction block, and the step from that to the present program of aiding those in need is one of still greater helpfulness and true kindness.

Similar but different, the individual architecture of old houses in South Amherst.



The Stoughton (Bliss, blacksmith) home on So. East St. 1972. (H.M.)



The (Moody) Truman Smith home on So. East St., at Potwine Lane exit. 1972 (H.M.)



The former Jim Schoonmaker home, southwest of the orchard hill. 1972 (H.M.)



Apple blossoms in May for 40 years.

Maytime was apple blossom time in South Amherst, but the orchardist has "less than an even chance of growing and marketing his fruit" from frost thru infestations, hail and hurricane. Apples are individually picked; labor is high. By 1952, 50% of the valley's orchardists had given up. Scenes like this, in 1972, are now few.

(Atkins orchard)

WHITE SUNDAY NAMED FOR APPLE BLOSSOMS

YEARLY LANDSCAPE OF BEAUTY:

(May 9, 1952)

As the apple blossom season approaches so does the anticipation of looking upon the great fields of apple blossoms covering the fruit orchards of South Amherst. This yearly landscape of beauty gives rise to the name of the Sunday that falls within this season, White Sunday.

The fruit grower is asked when this will occur. No one can foretell the time with certainty. Variations of more than 10 days have occurred in this blossom period in the last four years. However, judging by the present development of the fruit bud, May 11 will come the nearest to the White Sunday.

Worcester County Orchardists observed this day last year with a gathering of apple blossom enthusiasts and the crowning of one chosen by the group as the apple blossom queen.

From the utility point of view, the orchardist looks upon the blossom as a reminder that the gamble of the growing and marketing of apples has less than an even chance for winning.

The three last seasons, so disastrous to the pocketbook of the apple industry in Massachusetts, is nation wide. An orchardist from the Hudson River Valley writes that, for the past several years, the lot of the apple grower has been an unhappy one. Surveys show that here in the northeast there has been a drop of 15 to 20 percent in the number of the trees. As there is little salvage value in the trees, you just kiss the orchard investment "goodbye."

The ten-year boom in the apple tree planting business in South Amherst followed quickly that of the Waugh and Sears plantings on the Bay Road in 1908. The California gold rush of '49 or the Klondike of the nineties in the last century had no more impelling urge than that of the apple gamble of the early years of the present century. There was hardly an owner of land in this old lake bottom who did not plant some trees in those years while others ventured into the orchard gamble in a large way.

More than 50 percent of these orchards have now been pulled out by their roots, cut down or just abandoned and left standing encumbering the ground and making it useless for other crops. Each year shows a lessening of the orchard area by those still holding on to the business. It is not a simple undertaking to convert the land of an apple orchard into other production. It is more like the old pioneer task of first clearing the land of trees, which may be at a present cost of 75 or 100 dollars per acre.

Critchett's Bay Road Fruit Stand

Peaches for Canning, reads the sign. An apple, a pear, and a peach make up the advertisement. Probably early '30's.

(K.C.A.)



The nationwide production of 120 to 130 million bushels per year, as in the last three years, has been too many for profitable distribution. The per capita consumption of apples has slipped materially in the past few years. One of the chief reasons, we fear, is that many a housewife has ceased to cook for the family with the result that the apple does not now find its way into its varied uses as a dessert, especially the apple pie.

However, in spite of all this, the opening of the fragrant apple blossom continues to bring a picture of beauty and a renewed promise of fruit. The honeybees hum about the flowers, flying in rapid movements from tree to tree, doing their work and thus winning the well earned slogan "Busy as a Bee". But woe to the man who interferes with their schedule! So we come to the full bloom of the orchards of South Amherst, seen in all their beauty and inspirational hope. This busy season for the bee in pollinating flowers is the forerunner of the busy season of the orchardist in the gathering of the fruit that could never be realized without the apple blossoms which we look upon in the month of May, 1952.



Brainard Lyman's family tends the sale of home grown produce, on So. East Street. Mid '50's. (B.L.)

SPRAYING ON BAY ROAD FRUIT FARM - CRITCHETT'S

(All pictures contributed by Kay C. Alviani. Persons largely identified by Stan Kielbasa).



About 1928, '29 Ed Kiselewski on rig drawn by horses. Ernest Hartwell and Baleslaw Kiselewski. (K.C.A.)

Ed Kielbasa hand spraying (K.C.A.)



Joe Wagewidam, Edward Kielbasa and a Dodge truck about 1928. (K.C.A.)



Speed sprayer, 1947, pulled by
International crawler. Edward Critchett, Jr.
(K.C.A.)



1929 Reel Speed Wagon (truck); 1947 speed sprayer filler
wagon Edward Kielbasa (K.C.A.)



Edward Critchett. Speed sprayer, one of the first, 1947 SO4
International tractor (K.C.A.)



1930 G.M.C. truck. Frank Kielbasa (K.C.A.)



The harvest crew 1945-47 of Bay Road, most of Polish origin, who owned their own vegetable farms and worked at Bay Road Fruit Farm for the apple season: Kamensky and sons, Andrew Miazga, Andrew Jakobek and sons, Antonio Sobasto and sons, John Mutusko and son, John and Edward Tolper, Edward and John Gnatek, Chester Fil, John Bember, Bernard Wilkes, Stan Chmura, Louis Blayda, Tony Gesorek, Elias Yarrows. (K.C.A.)



John Kiselewski and E.R. Critchett beside the 1947 Studebaker. (Frank Ives home in background across road.)

1937 Chev truck used to transport apples from Critchett's farm to Springfield Cold Storage.
Ed Kiselewski. (K.C.A.)





Late 1920's, early 1930's. Gardner's Fruit Stand, started about 1922 was half this size. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gardner and a cousin of Mr. Gardner's in front. (Note Turnbull's ice cream sign). (K.C.A.)

The Grange is another integral organization of South Amherst with many loyal supporters. Below, a photo of charter members.

Feb. 21, 1973 (A. Record)



CHARTER MEMBERS of the South Amherst Grange gathered recently for a 50th anniversary celebration at the Munson Memorial Library. Joined by hundreds of other grange members and friends were this group of charter members who posed for a picture. Seated, from left Win Shumway, Mildred McKemmie and Jennie Cowles. Standing, from left Duane Smith, Lester Hayward, Robert Call, Theresa Hayward, Merton Smith, Jean Hawley, Winfred Cowles and R D Hawley.

**BOOMING FOURTH FIZZLING;
OLD-TIME ANTICS RECALLED; PICNIC
(July 11, 1952)**



**Bill Atkins riding high wheel won by Ernest B. Smith (who lived at Kentfield's)
in a competitive race held in Springfield about 1886.**

Recognition of Independence Day by the community at our village took the form, as in the past four years, of a parade about the common with sports and a box lunch picnic on the green, supplemented by lemonade and watermelon.

The writer has not searched to find when this day was first made a legal holiday, but he can testify it has been on the books in his memory of seventy-five years. To a small boy the use of fire crackers was the best active demonstration he imagined, telling the world of his patriotism, the "summum bonum" of his very self. A five-cent bunch of fire crackers meant more to a boy then than all that a "cartwheel" will buy today. However, the lowly firecracker, as well as the giant kind, expressed a greater amount of thrill, but because of many serious accidents by their use, have now been tabooed in 32 states.

To compensate for these restrictions nearly all towns and cities provide some public celebration on the Fourth in which the young as well as the old may participate. Public parades, ballgames of the day and fireworks provided by the public fulfill much of this need.

Amherst has not been lacking in this respect. Parades of interesting floats representing the industries of the town and historic events have taken place.

One parade of special historic interest to South Amherst was in 1926. A highwheel bicycle ridden in the Amherst parade had been won at a competitive race held in Springfield about 1886. The winner of this race was the late Ernest B. Smith of So. Amherst, then a venturesome young man working in Springfield. This wheel, a rarity today, was ridden again last year and this year in the parade about the South Amherst Common.

B & M Station Explosion

There are many unplanned events that explode on the 4th that are not serious but just an effort to celebrate in some unusual way. One of these was in July, about 1895, when the premature explosion of fire-works within the B & M Station burned down the depot at South Amherst. This awakened intense excitement among the boys depending on this supply for their justification. Some of the crackers were destined for the fire works demonstration to be on the ledge (Shay St.), but never reached that destination.

Boys in the Belfry

By customs in South Amherst the 4th is always ushered in promptly at midnight by the boys ringing the church bell for a half hour, thus relieving some of their pent up patriotic enthusiasm. Sometimes, secretly climbing the church tower, boys will continue ding-donging the bell into the wee daylight hours. My diary reads in 1927 "to the church at 2 A.M. Boys in the belfry". There are many thrilling stories harbored by men today. Escapades of their youth, gaining the steeple tower and then escaping to the ground down the lightning rod or the eave spout.

The blowing of horns and dragging through the streets at an early morning hour, horse rakes, wagons and oil drums was of usual occurrence. The din and racket of the same awakened the old and young so they might not forget that the glorious Fourth was at hand. A bonfire, with material hastily gathered sometimes included a decrepit wagon. While not of the "one horse-shay" distinction, however, it did, with self-appropriated old hay and the deacon's lumber, give a glow that lighted the village green to every nook and corner.

Times Have Changed

The year 1952 found this all different; even the church bell failed to ring out the glad tidings of liberty and freedom. The public, however, did not let this interfere with the day's celebration about the village green. A well-planned program was given the public consisting of a parade and sports with a box lunch on the common. Lemonade and watermelon were freely distributed to the satisfaction of both old and young. The weatherman gave his beneficent smile upon the community group of 200 as they gave way to the enthusiasm of celebrating this day.

The parade opened the day's celebration. It was led by David Goodrich, in his "happy go lucky" manner wheeling his bull calf in a decorated wheelbarrow. Later (even if not according to Hoyle) he gave an entertaining demonstration, with the bull doing the broad jump. He received recognition by the judges for this act. The floats were judged by the committee of Miss Miriam Richards, Miss Ann Whalen and Gordon Neylon. This judging was a difficult problem skillfully handled to the satisfaction of all. The results were as follows:

Best decorated bicycle: Bobby Adams.

Best decorated float: Geoffrey and Elaine Kenseth as the elf and queen.

Honorable mention: The "Sky Rocket" by Dale Atkins; "The Flag" a float pushed by Ronnie Collins carrying Joanne Sullivan impersonating Betsy Ross making the American flag.

Most original float: Pilgrim Fellowship group with its farm and live stock exhibit on a large float dramatized "Pa and Ma Kettle and family home from the fair."

Old fashioned "School Days", Allen and Kristen Stedman.

Most unique costume: Peter and Barbara Hannus.

Most original costume: The bride and groom midgets, Arthur Dimock and Celia Atkins.

Biggest kid: William Atkins, Jr. riding the high wheel bicycle.

Honorable mention to the bases loaded with the Little League's Peter, Stephan and Norman Coe.

Misses Fourth of July: Patricia and Susan Hannigan.

Prizes were given in the many athletic events such as foot, bag, and three-legged races, potato and egg throwing, including that of straight baseball games both morning and afternoon. The celebrants were sorry for the three little kittens of the parade, Cheryl, Holly and Heather Bastow who had lost their mittens and could have no pie, but evidently they did find their mittens, for we saw them later happily eating their pie. Thus ended a perfect day for all.



Jemima Kerr French and two "kilted" children in parade, 1950. (J.K.F.)



Three in the parade: Arthur Dimock and Celia Atkins as midget groom and bride; Danny Atkins one of the Dwarfs. 1952 (E.D.)



Win Shumway and Dave Goodrich in float "King of the Farm" July 4, 1954. (J.K.F.)



View southwest from highway bridge, built 1881 over Fort River, at Mill Lane junction with So. East St. Railroad bridge erected 1887. (Amherst Record)

BRIDGES OVER FORT RIVER

(August 29, 1952)

The bridge over Fort River on South East Street glistens in its new coat of paint, and what is of more importance is the new planking replacing the old, making for the safety of the traveling public. This bridge over Fort River is a connecting link of approach of the South to the North part of Amherst. If the bridge had vocal power we wager it could tell many a story in its seventy years of life history.

Data shows it was built in 1881 after the selectmen of 1873 voted that hereafter any new bridge should be of iron, in substitution for wood. We find the cost of this bridge in the horse and buggy days of 1881 as \$450 for the abutment and \$950 for the structure. The width of 16 feet was truly of the horse and buggy type and not for the fast moving auto of today, meeting with scarce an inch to spare. It no longer resounds with the click, click of the tread of the vanishing horse. If in the storytelling mood, it could tell not only of the courtships of the horse and buggy days but of tragic events as well. It was from this vantage point that Birdie Danahey, six years old, was seen going from the Danahey home nearby on her way to school on the day of April 6, 1887 but never seen again, although intensive search was made both far and near.

Railroad Bridges Erected

From this bridge one could have watched the building of two railroad bridges one close by erected in 1887 over the Fort River, and the other the same year over the highway, to accommodate the trains on the new railroad that would carry freight and passengers to and from Boston.

On this same highway bridge many a timid horse has reared to his terrifying height or plunged to a reckless runaway at the approach of the fire engine monster on the railway bridges nearly over his head. The consternation and frightening of the driver was no less terrifying as he was hurled from his seat to the road side by the swirl of the fast moving wagon. From this bridge in the early fishing season, can be seen the hopeful boy angler with an improvised fish pole and line seeking the big whopper to go with the whopper told his disbelieving mates.

The survey of the railroad passing over South East Street, necessitated plying between Boston, Amherst and Northampton.

To live in the Deteau house when the trains come thundering down the grade from Amherst over the two bridges within a few feet of the front entrance to the home with a roar and rumble that would, as the saying goes, "Awake the dead", must be nerve wracking. However, there are now but two trains' a day, one to puff and groan up the grade to balance the one rumbling down the grade. From the highway bridge, previously referred to on South East Street, one may stand and look just across the way upon the trestlework of the railway bridge high above the river which it spans. A tragic event took place here in 1904 when the late Joseph Deteau, homeward bound, walking by way of the railway from Amherst over this bridge, with his bundle of groceries to his home, fell to the water and rocks below unto his death.

We are quite confident that the iron bridge at Mill Valley, crossing the Fort River barrier between the South and the North part of Amherst, was built before that at South East Street. This bridge became obsolete for vehicular traffic when a new survey of the highway was made in 1919 placing the river crossing in a different location. A cement bridge was placed at this point for the auto traffic, and the old iron one is now maintained for a foot bridge.

The history of this crossing goes back to 1748 where the record shows a bridge was built "near the grist mill" and may have been the first bridge across Fort River. A change indeed would be for us to hark back and be one of those to live when there were no bridges, when streams of water were forded as best they could both summer and winter.

Notes taken from the Morehouse *History of Amherst* state that the first passenger train into Amherst, on what is now the C.V. Railroad, was on May 14, 1853, thirty-four years previous to the one on the Boston and Maine. The C.V. plied two passenger trains each way between Amherst and Palmer daily, while the B. & M. likewise made four trips to Boston daily.

Amherst was the terminal until 1866, thirteen years after the first rails were laid into Amherst, when the road was extended to Grouts Corner (Millers Falls). The last passenger train to go through Amherst on this road was on January 31, 1947. The last passenger train on the B. & M. was in 1931.

APPLE INDUSTRY WELL-ESTABLISHED IN S. AMHERST

(September 26, 1952)

The apple industry has become so well established in its home at South Amherst that the word apple has become synonymous with this district. The orchardist is now in the midst of the harvest season of this fruit.

The yield this year in the New England states is estimated to be but sixty percent of that of last year. Various reasons are given for this, such as poor pollination of the blossom, caused by rainy weather that limited bee activity, plus two heavy frosts in the bloom season. Another is the reduction in number of the trees themselves. No apple trees, no apples!

The cutting down or abandonment of the trees, because of financial loss to the groves, has been on the increase in the last

The boom years of apple tree setting of 1910 to 1920 were started by the late professors F.A. Waugh and F.C. Sears of the Massachusetts State College in the setting of a large acreage in the Bay Road district, in the year 1908. There was hardly a land owner in these areas that had even an acre of land but devoted some of it to apple trees.

Since 1940 there has been a gradual reduction in the number of apple trees. The last two years have seen the totals decrease at an increasingly rapid rate until more than twenty percent of the apple trees of South Amherst have given up the fight for existence inasmuch as the depleted financial returns from the fruit and the difficulty of growing good fruit has led many of the growers to surrender to the inevitable and drop out of fruit growing.

The main fruit orchards of today doing business are those of E.R. Critchett (Bay Road Orchards), the Markert Brothers, the Stiles Brothers, and the Atkins. These four produce not less than 90 percent of all the fruit grown in South Amherst. The continued battling against the fungi and insect injury makes fruit growing a real science calling for the most skillful management. In spite of all this, the orchardists who have met the rules and regulations laid down for producing choice fruit can show again this fall an attractive product, though limited in amount, from trees in South Amherst.

Grading apples in the orchard in the era of using picking baskets, Mid-thirties (R.S.).



three years until, authorities state, there is, as estimated, a twenty percent reduction of apple trees throughout the apple-growing sections of the North East. The cause of this reduction in the number of trees is the excessive costs that have grown into the industry, both in spraying and labor, that has not been met by the financial returns from sales of the fruit.

Sight to Behold

There is no more satisfying sight than an apple tree laden with fruit and further to see the fruit as it is packed away into boxes for the winter consumption. E.R. Critchett has the most extensive orchard, a portion of which may be seen on either side of the Bay Road. It is a "sight for the eyes" to look upon the Cortland tree, which can now be seen bowing to the earth laden with its fiery red fruit. All orchardists sell some during the picking season, but the major portion is put away in the cold storage for the later markets. Mr. Critchett serves the public through the picking season at his attractive roadside stand with appetizing fruit from his own orchards. He grades the fruit in nearby buildings and stores the greater portion in a Springfield Cold storage.

Ernest Markert has a cold storage of his own which gives him a distinct advantage over those dependent upon public storages. He places most of his apples in the cooler ungraded until he takes them out later as they are called for by trade. Having these facilities at hand, Mr. Markert has had the courage to clear a section of forest land, on the hillside bordering the Bay Road and has made a fairly large setting of apple trees interplanted with the peach, thus dividing his financial gamble between the apple and the peach.

Far View Farm truck in foreground
West St. Cold Storage (R.C.S.)



Apple Storage

The Stiles brothers, Atkins, and other growers use the Amherst Apple Storage for storing what is not sold at the picking season. We are sure visitors will be welcomed by Raymond Wentworth, the manager of this storage where both men and women may be seen busily grading the fruit as to color, size and perfection, then placing it in boxes, and stamping it, as the state grading law requires, with the grade, size, and grower's name. Some of this fruit goes immediately on the market, the balance into the cooler room. Here at the

Amherst Apple, as well as at Mr. Markert's Storage, apples may be procured for family consumption as well as for the wholesale outlet throughout the winter season.

In this story perhaps is the answer to the question often asked, "Why the shortage of the apple crop?" The second question, "Why the high price?" is answered by the universal law of supply and demand. The price of apples like that of all other farm products is dependent on this old law. This year the supply is enough short of the demand to create a high market price, while in the years of 1949, '50 and '51 the supply exceeded the demand, thus creating a low price, resulting in a financial loss to most fruit growers and the abandonment of many of the apple trees.

However this all may be, the efficient fruit growers, and they alone, will take the good and poor years in their stride and continue at least for a time in producing attractive, appetizing apples in South Amherst.

Facing north, at Bay Road-West Street junction, the Critchett fruit stand with Johnny Appleseed trim. (.Kay Critchett Alviani)



Snapped at harvest, Earl Rhodes and Bill Atkins. (Canvas bags have now replaced the earlier picking baskets).

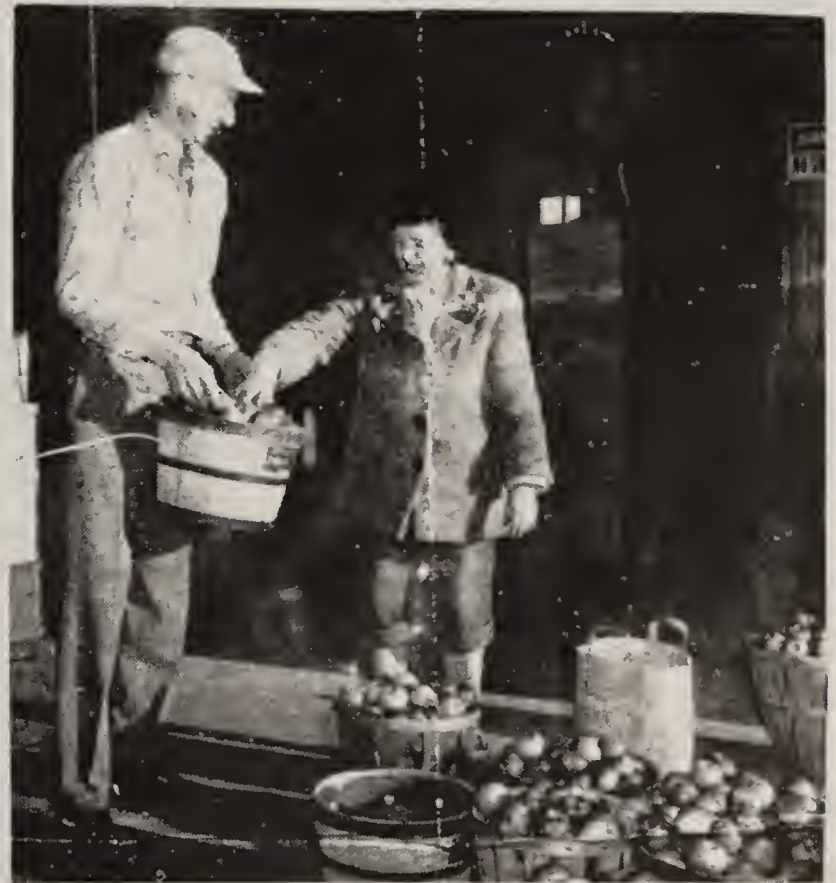
William Atkins, right, discusses his year's excellent apple crop with one of the pickers. This extra-fancy fruit is hand-picked and carefully handled to keep it in top condition for the market. Roadside stands on Bay Rd., West St., South East St., Belchertown Rd. and Montague Rd. are now beautifully supplied with local apples of all grades and prices.

Retailing From Farm - to - You

Probable date, 1957



Part of the 14,000 bushels of apples stored last fall in controlled atmosphere storage is taken out for retail at the Atkins farm stand. Apples so stored retain crispness and plumpness until late spring.



A bushel of tree fresh MacIntosh apples which have been kept at peak ripeness in the Atkins cold storage which regulates temperature, humidity and atmosphere brings smiles to the faces of Howard Atkins and one of his helpers, Mary Forsythe.



Howard Atkins looks over the fine apples which have been graded and sorted and are now ready to be sold at his fruit and vegetable stand in South Amherst. Also ready for fall pie making are the large squash on the top shelf of the stand.

Direct sales from producer to consumer account for the difference between profit and loss for one of the oldest and most progressive farms in Amherst. This practice means higher prices for the farmer and lower prices for the consumer and is in accordance with the most up to date farm management practices. Howard Atkins' grandfather, who started farming on this site in 1868, would be pleasantly surprised at the modern methods.

An October Sight-Seeing Tour In 1951

by W. H. Atkins

As the days and months have rolled by into October, I am reminded that at this season, in 1951 I recognized my eightieth birthday by a sight-seeing tour to the tip of the old Hadley lake region even to Northfield. I recall that it was on the date of this anniversary that the "Mrs." and I took seats in our '39 "Olds" dressed in her shiny grey coat and took off for the distant hills to the North.

Passing through the historic village of Amherst, we were soon upon the super highway that spans the distance between North Amherst and the village of Millers Falls. Here one may drive at ease over its smooth surface without encountering an auto, rabbit, squirrel or even a pussy cat to give a driver jitters or obstruct and endanger his way. Here we viewed the varied coloring of the foliage on the Leverett Hills to the east and that of Mt. Toby to the west. Continuing on this road, we entered the village of Millers Falls, first known as "Grouts Corner".

It was here in the early days of the last century that Gunn's Tavern was a stopping point for refreshments for both man and beast on the stage line from Boston to Albany and Troy. It is much to be regretted that in 1890 this historical landmark was destroyed by fire. We now crossed the narrow horse and buggy bridge that will soon be replaced by a modern structure and leave the village of Millers Falls to pursue our travels on the road to Northfield.

200 Cows Drowned

From this road we could see down across the green meadows to the west upon the large attractive buildings of the Tenney homestead. We recalled this was the farm where 200 dairy cows, fastened in their stanchions unable to free themselves, were drowned in the Connecticut River flood of the spring of 1936. On a neighboring farm a herd of 50 dairy cows, although liberated from their stanchions, were swept in the raging torrent with the floating ice down the river until they too, unable to reach dry land, succumbed in the icy waters.

Northerly bound, we soon entered the wide village street of Northfield, a mile in length and beautified by elms on either side. Due to the stren-

uous objections of the villagers in 1900, the days of the electric railway boom, the street has never been desecrated by the whirl and the grind of the electric car, the citizens preferring to remain in the horse and buggy class until Henry Ford arrived with his rubber wheeled Lizzie which received the approval of the villagers as it skimmed along the street without a disturbing noise.

From here we sought out a little cottage set apart from the Main Street, sheltered from the busy life of the village, the home of our friends, the Hamilton sisters. We were pleasantly entertained here in looking at their photographs of New England Churches and that of covered bridges. We found this art of picture-taking is one of their hobbies at which they are especially skillful. Here we saw

photographs of the North Amherst and South Amherst churches. What was of more especial interest to me was seeing my boyhood church in West Granville, of which I became a member at an early age. At this point of our narrative I should like to reminisce.

Church Revivals of 1883

It was here in the day of church revivals of 1883 that after singing the hymn entitled "Who is on the Lord's Side," suggestion was made that those desiring to be on the Lord's side should stand. Not wishing to be counted on the side of what was known in those days as the "Devil", I took my stand then and there at the age of 12. There too by the church was the post office where from box 12 we took our weekly Republican, and what was of more importance to me, the Youth's Companion. The array of these post office boxes may now be seen within the Wiggins country store at Northampton.

Now we hied back across the Connecticut River, through Bernardston, and by the tea room set back a bit from the highway. We understand it was here that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and her dog, Fala, were entertained one noon hour having been refused harbor at the hotel because of the dog, the hotel management not recognizing either the dog or his mistress, the wife of the President. On by the Stoneleigh school for

girls, the grounds of which are enclosed with a Virginia rail fence. We would like, but are unable to show that these rails were split by the skilled hand of Abe Lincoln whose reputation as a rail splitter was well known in his day.

Amherst Stage Coach

On arrival at the Weldon we partook of a satisfying lunch including the hotel coffee as our appetizer. In the hotel lobby were large stagecoach posters of the 1830 period framed and under glass for preservation. Of special interest to us was the one which stated that at 2 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week a stagecoach would leave the Rockford and Boltwood Mansion House in Amherst and reach Boston at 6 p.m. The same day, a similar stage was to start at the same house for Albany and Troy, reaching its destination on the same day. We expect the Boston stage traveled by Paine's tavern on Shay St. which was burned in 1888, now the home site of J. W. Linton and by the South Church on to the Bay Road by the Bridgman Tavern (now Ernest Markert) and thence on through Belchertown over the Bay Road to Boston. We do know that the Palmer stage followed this route as far as Belchertown when it turned on to a Palmer road.

Leaving the Weldon we planned to call on fire chief Ferris of Greenfield, who was the fire chief of Amherst nineteen years ago, but we were disappointed here on being told he was in Amherst for the day. However, I have not forgotten how he showed us the honors on a previous visit by taking their new aerial ladder out and inviting us to climb heavenward. Not wishing to hurt his feelings by a downright refusal I simply said the "Mrs." would not want me to climb so high.

35 Historic Houses

Homeward bound we left the thoroughway and turned in as was our custom to travel along the historic street of Deerfield, the oldest town in Franklin County dating back to 1663. We counted on this Deerfield street, thirty-five old historic houses that had either passed their first or second century mark.

The Hall Tavern, moved in from East Charlemont three years ago, no

doubt was one that furnished hospitality for the stagecoach travelers on the Greenfield-Troy line in 1830. It now adds an attractive historical feature to the street as a public museum and a country store. It is most remarkable that so many of the houses of one and two centuries ago are standing and have withstood the menace of fire so many years. Here too, in an ideal location, is the nationally known Deerfield Academy school for boys with an equally widely known head master, Dr. Boyden.

Into South Deerfield we crossed Bloody Brook, where on Sept. 18, 1675 a group of men numbering 71, on their way to the Deerfield meadows to harvest their grain for the home families in Hatfield and Hadley, were ambushed by the Indians and murdered. The hotel at this town of South Deerfield was named the Bloody Brook House in memory of that tragic catastrophe in 1675.

This Bloody Brook House, representing the hotel of South Deerfield burned in 1775, was rebuilt, and burned again in 1905. It was again replaced but burned once more in 1950. Thus, a hotel landmark dating back close to 200 years and perhaps more, carrying the name of the site of the catastrophe of 1675, is no more.

We now turned our way homeward but near the village of North Amherst we stopped short at the sight of a turtle in our path. While the oncoming traffic halted, the "Mrs.", with the sympathetic spirit of Abraham Lincoln who stopped a coach to rescue some pigs in the mire, stepped from the car and to my horror carefully picked up the quadruped to save him from an untimely death and assisted him across the road in

view of Dr. Benton's veterinarian hospital nearby on the hill. Possibly the tortois was already on his way to consult the doctor at the hospital for some bodily ailment or injury to his hardshell back. We wished him good luck and sped on our way.

Having credited ourselves with a good deed for the day, we next made a short call at the Amherst "Home for the aged" in which the "Mrs.", as a director, has a special interest. This pleasant village home, which is under the careful supervision of Mrs. Albert Hiltbold, would seem to make ideal surroundings in which to spend the sunset days of one's life. On through the village of Amherst we arrived home at eventide as the hill tops of Castor and Pollux were casting their shadows over the Atkins meadows. So endeth the diary of October 20, 1951.



Naomi Howard Atkins (Mrs. W.H.) 1880-1962

"—whatsoever things are lovely—"

Historical Society Elects

The annual meeting of the Amherst Historical society was held Friday evening in the auditorium of the Jones library, with Prof. Reginald French, the president, presiding. Edward D. Andrews of Richmond, a graduate of Amherst college, gave a talk on "Shaker Culture." Officers elected for 1948 are: President, Mr. French; vice president, Stewart L. Garrison; clerk and treasurer, Amos G. Avery; auditor, Bertram O. Moody; historian, Mrs. Henry Emerson; librarian, Newton McKeon; custodian, Mrs. C. F. Luther; directors, Mrs. A. J. Hastings, Mrs. C. W. Cole, Mrs. George Olds, Mrs. W. H. Atkins, Mrs. Herman Babson, Mrs. George Cutler, Mrs. W. W. Stifler, Rev. H. C. Parke, Hazard Dakin, Mr. Garrison, Charles R. Green, Albert H. Douglass, Harold M. Elder, Rev. John A. Hawley and Laurence Packard; membership, Mrs. C. Scott Porter, Mrs. W. L. Machmer, Mrs. Robert Hadley, Mrs. Roland Verbeck, James Robertson; and nominating, Mrs. W. G. Webber, W. R. Brown and Mrs. Walter J. Dyer.

1947

Mrs. W.H. Atkins served as director of the historical society for many years. Her knowledge & love of antiques was well known in the area.

**SUMNER PARKER HONORED;
TO RETIRE ON DECEMBER 1
(November 21, 1952)**



SUMNER R. PARKER

Sumner Parker, active South Amherst resident from 1920-1935. (Helen Parker de Bruyn)

A dinner party of 200 at the Sudbury Inn on Monday evening, November 17 was given to Mr. Sumner R. Parker in recognition of thirty-seven years of work in the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture at the University. The immediate call for this event was his anticipated retirement December 1 from further duties at the post he has held so long.

Appropriate gifts were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Parker, but perhaps of most interest to them was a portfolio containing letters of good will and appreciation from many friends. The letters had been assembled by his office for Mr. Parker's enjoyment. Without dwelling upon the good will and appreciative remarks by many of his close associates at the meeting as well as with Mr. Parker's most gracious and appreciative words telling of the sympathetic loyal support he had always received from those with whom he was associated in both advisory and administrative ways, we will turn our thoughts to the period Mr. Parker made his home in South Amherst.

Moves To South Amherst

It was in 1920 that Mr. Parker bought the F.M. Johnson farm on West Street and moved with his family to South Amherst from Amherst. Mr. Parker, not in the habit of doing things half way, had their church membership changed from the church at Amherst village to South Amherst and with the family put his whole support to the interests of the South community. He was church moderator during most of his stay here which was until 1935 when the farm was sold and he moved back to Amherst.

Mr. Parker helped to organize the Holyoke Milk Producers' Association in 1921 of which he was secretary for several years. In 1930 at the building of the Munson Memorial Library he was appointed by the selectmen as one of the three trustees of the property. He was made secretary of the board and has been reappointed each re-occurring term by the selectmen. Mr. Sumner Parker and Mrs. Sumner (Inez) Parker were charter

members of the Grange organized in 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Parker were active workers in the South Church. Mr. Parker serving on several boards of the church, and Mrs. Parker served in various capacities in the church until her death in 1934. Their son Leonard, who lost his life in World War II, played the church organ in his high school days and the daughters assisted in the choir.

Although Mr. Parker moved to Amherst in 1935, he has retained his membership in the local grange and has continued to accept the appointment as a trustee by the selectmen of the Munson Library thus showing his continued interest in the South Amherst Community.



by Roland Coe, well known artist, of Middle Street, probably in the 1940's.



The Howard Atkins family, with children Celia, Merrilee, Dale and Danny. About 1948. (R.W.A.)

Odds and Ends of Village Life

A sample of the monthly letters written and mailed to So. Amherst Service Men of W.W. II, covering parts of three years. These letters preceded the historical essays of 1948-52.

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|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| May 11, 1943 | copy at So. Congo. Church | one page |
| Nov. 1944 | Daily Hampshire Gazette | Dec. 17, '44 |
| Dec. 26, '44 | Daily Hampshire Gazette | Jan. 5, '45 |
| Jan. 25, '45 | Daily Hampshire Gazette | Feb. 5, '45 |
| Feb. 22, '45 | Daily Hampshire Gazette | Mar. 9, '45 |
| Mar. 28, '45 | Daily Hampshire Gazette | April issue, '45 |
| April 24, '45 | Daily Hampshire Gazette | May 4, '45 |

SO. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Amherst, Mass.
May 11, 1943

Greetings,

To you again, Uncle Sam's boys! May-day greetings, springtime greetings, with local news items from your own special corner of home. From the very tip-top spire of our white South Amherst Church, to you wherever you are, doing your share in this far-flung global conflict, we are flashing to you once more in the special code of thought language a whole hearted assurance that we are backing you to the limit in our efforts to help along on the home front, the job you are doing on the fighting front today.

Last week trucks came through here again collecting our latest contributions of scrap metal: the Girl Scouts went from door to door and each home-maker handed out whatever extra fat had been carefully saved to make explosives. Many of us are sending out V-mail letters which we hope are reaching you much quicker than the regular mail.

Dandelions — old Mother Nature's first free spring-time vitamin ration, are here, and in many gardens out of long rows of carefully prepared and banked earth will soon spring up baby sprouts of lettuce, carrots, onions, beets, parsnips, and chard; with corn, beans, tomatoes, squash, and many other things following right along. We will not forget to pack away a liberal share of our best yield for winter, or when you boys are home. Win Shumway already has a lot of fine lettuce and cabbage in the ground. His and Bill Atkins' tomato plants are just about ready to be set out, and Earl Goman's green house is a delight to behold. We expect the apple trees to be in bloom some time next week, about two weeks later than last year. Wentworth, Schoonmaker, Atkins, and Markert were all spraying last week.

Kenneth Thayer has bought the Fred Jewett place and is busy plowing and planting, as well as working on the buildings. Bob Schoonmaker is home for the duration and is working on his dad's place. Dick Schoonmaker is on a farm in Jersey. Ted is to be summer pastor at Isle au Haute, Maine, and will be there with his new bride from the middle of June. Sonny Tiffany has gone across we expect to Africa. Wilfred Judd is home for two weeks furlough from Seymour Johnson Field. The senior Markerts celebrated a fortieth wedding anniversary last week with a bang up family party. Phil Ives' baby son arrived within twenty four hours of Sherwin King's baby daughter, although in different months, and different hospitals.

Among the war time casualties in town is the Douglas Marsh Furniture Store. They sold out to Jordon Marsh because of lack of help. At Amherst College the sports program has closed for the duration, we are told. They were troubled with lack of male power.

Rest of letter missing.

SOUTH AMHERST FOLKS SHARE HOME NEWS WITH SERVICEMEN (December 17, 1944)

South Amherst men and women in all branches of the armed services are kept well informed on the home front by a group of patriotic citizens. These friendly greetings from back home are appreciated. They not only keep those at distant points informed on village happenings, but they help to drive away nostalgia, and are a contributing factor toward morale.

The Thanksgiving letter signed by Mrs. Charles J. King, Selectman William H. Atkins, Mrs. John Lowe, Mrs. Norman MacLeod and Rev. Louis Toppan is a classic in its simple, concise recital of news events in a small community, which one suspects were written largely by Selectman Atkins and its final inspiring picture of the home scene was presented by Mrs. King. One learns that Halloween was celebrated true to form in South Amherst.

"The boys rang the bell and climbed the belfry. A buggy was resurrected from somewhere and left on Winfred Cowles' front lawn. Herbert Hutching's dump car was laboriously drawn up by my house with boy muscle and left in Mrs. Schoonmaker's yard. An old wagon with other material was burned in front of the Dwight homestead. Oil cans and a various assortment of waste tins and bottles were distributed along the lawns of the village. Thus passed Halloween with boydom feeling that great victories had been won."

South Amherst boys now in the jungles of New Guinea and the Philippines where the enemy vies with certain native types of big game in its inherent cruelty and savagery will learn that their old and familiar hunting areas still have their fauna, for here is the proof:

"Foxes have been seen down on the Depot Road and on the farm next to mine. In North Belchertown a Ross boy has caught two. Quite a number of skunks and muskrats have been caught here by the regular trappers."

Old-Timers Attend Church

The newsy letter, which in many ways may be regarded as a model of its kind from an enterprising neighborly community like South Amherst, continues:

"Mrs. Hollis Moore of West Street gave birth to a boy on October 30. This is all we have to show for new babies. However, we have had a new family to us move in to the large house just the other side of the cement bridge on the way to Amherst. The name is Towson. They have one son in the service and a daughter at home. The family has been down to church and the daughter has sung in the choir.

"The attendance at our church service one Sunday in November included five men who would have been seen there 50 years ago. You will recognize the names of Ralph Howlett, Alfred Goodale, Atkins, Walter Hayward. The fifth was Carey

Hayward of Pittsfield, who was born where Brainard Lyman now lives. Mr. Hayward had the first safety bicycle that came into South Amherst. It had cushion, rubber tires and weighed close to 50 pounds. Mr. Hayward's father had a shop by the pond and made wagons and sleds.

"We observed Laymen's Sunday in November. Herbert McChesney gave the sermon and a choir of men was gotten together to lead in singing. The weekday religious education is being carried on again this year. The Amherst church council hires the teachers who give the pupils of the seventh and eighth grades at junior high an hour each week in religious education.

"Our church choir come down from their usual seats after the opening exercises to sit in the body of the church. An architect from Boston is coming this week Saturday to give suggestions as to relocation of the choir loft and the decoration of the church auditorium. A social gathering of young people of high school age has been meeting once a week at the library auditorium for games and dancing. Rev. Toppan and Mrs. Garrabrants have sponsored this group known as the Club Norwottuck.

Snow in Berkshires

"Snow arrived on November 16, about two inches which soon disappeared, but on the Berkshire hills it was six to eight inches and caused a great deal of trouble on the highways. A chicken pie supper was served at Dwight chapel November 2. We understand it was well attended, necessitating the seating of second tables."

Then follows a paragraph on the election results and in the referenda "the people voted 'yes' right down the line and voted to prohibit the playing of 'beano' for prizes throughout the state." The letter continues:

"Dr. Irvine Elliott, the husband of Marjorie Atkins, has arrived at Cairo, Egypt, on his way to Greece where he will work with the United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Administration. Marjorie and baby will stay in this country at her old home. Marjorie Felker Hutchings and baby are staying at the Davenport home while Herbert is off to war. Dr. Ives, who bought the Hulst farm, who has been serving in the army camp at Windsor, Ct., has been transferred to Colorado. His wife had an auction this month of all the farm tools and orchard equipment. We received a card of greeting from Henry Messier last week, who is in the South Pacific, otherwise no direct message from you, except the King and MacLeod boys who write home.

"Our typist, Mary Jane Stedman, is going to Springfield to work next month. Who will get these letters out for us? Now I will close with a cheerio and turn you to Mrs. King's letter, which breathes out the mother love to each of you."

"How is it with us? Well, butter is like gold nuggets in more than color this year — scarce and costly. Cranberry sauces may be only a colorful memory at many a table. All-family parties are mostly out because no gas for pleasure driving is available. Cotton material for mother's new house dress is a minus quantity and as for sheets — well, if you don't manage to finish up this war pretty soon the ones we have will look like a real patchwork job. But 'so what' as one of you often remarks!

"Every day brings the end of the war closer; every day victory seems more assured; every letter and report from you boys telling us that you are 'well' or 'all right' releases a mighty flood of the kind of thanksgiving that has nothing to do with turkey and pie and nuts and fruit and is in season any day of the year.

"You see I happen to be the proud mother of a certain two of you lads in uniform and that uniform you are wearing these days, in one sense, makes you all brothers. consequently in that sense you are all my boys, so can't you see how puffed up with pride I am when I establish a claim on all the 30 or 40 of you South Amherst boys and the part you are doing to hasten the days of peace and that grand day when you will be coming home."

Amherst, Mass., Dec. 26, 1944

It is the Christmas season when yearly our thoughts go out to our friends. Impressions of goodwill are given in various ways — a card to a friend, a doll or rattle to a child, ties, stockings, handkerchiefs to the grown-ups. To you so far away we write this letter of cheer and want you to know our thought goes out to you in all the tragedy of your life. May the God of all creation give you courage day by day.

Bradley Gage, John MacLeod, Jean Towson, and Doris Cowles were at church last Sunday. Jean is a cadet nurse and Doris is leaving as an army nurse within two or three weeks but does not know just where. There is a possibility someone of you may meet one or both.

Last month after the church supper the men did up the dishes while the women and youngsters repaired clothing and packed boxes for shipment to Greece.

Brainard Lyman has been to Chicago as a delegate from Hampshire County to a meeting of the American Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Herbert Hutchings, Jr., is taking a trip to Texas to visit Herbert. Robert Schoonmaker, who is troubled with arthritis has gone to Tucson, Ariz., for the winter, hoping the dry climate will be helpful. Mrs. Toppan's mother, Mrs. Jack, is spending the winter with the Toppan family.

Cecil Jewett's horse lay down one day last month and was unable to get up. The neighbors turned out to help the horse on his feet but his strength had left him. We understand that Mr. Hutchings came over and ended the old horse's suffering. Mr. Jewett is still living alone but comes over our way every day or two. He is past ninety years of age.

William Kershlis has bought a strip of land adjoining his north line. Albert Brace has moved to the little house at the corner of Middle Street and Bay Road. The Canning plant has a new coat of shingles.

Skating on Atkins pond has been good but the light snow yesterday will spoil the fun. Very little snow in South Amherst.

The USO of Amherst called for a hemlock Christmas tree from the woods down by the railroad. This was cut and the paper reports the Christmas party held at the USO headquarters. The Episcopal church furnishes its parish house which is well patronized by the military at the colleges.

Sunday night was celebrated in South Amherst by the young people going out carol singing. Mr. McLeod furnished the truck and Mrs. Toppan was the chauffeur. When they reached the Bay Road the gasoline gave out. A hurry call was sent for gas; this being supplied, they went on their way to Mr. Arthur Towson's at South Pleasant Street, where they had been invited to have refreshments. After this a trip to Amherst Center where they sang carols, making a stop at Mr. W.H. Sanderson's.

Christmas cheer to you South Amherst boys in uniform wherever you may be on December 25 of this year! In a ball game, the tremendous voice of a rousing cheer expresses support, approval and encouragement for the players. From every side of the world arena we are today cheering for you fighters in this gigantic global conflict.

You, this Christmas, are giving — and each of you alone knows at what cost — something far more important than any tangible offering. Multiply by millions the courage, bravery, loyalty and sacrifice of your own experience; then add to that the powerful force of heart-felt giving by every worthy member of the home front, and be proud to have a part in this unprececedent Christmas season of 1944.

Bill Barton sends back his corrected address and says, "This is by way of saying thanks for the news letter. My best to you and all the South Amherst folks." Don King, recently



A beloved view, by all who know South Amherst, Mt. Norwottuck. (Herb Hutchings)

transferred from North Africa to Italy, writes, "We are camping in a pine grove — am already feeling better in this colder climate, food here much better — it's good to see some green grass and some mountains more like those at home — your letters are a big help."

And so ends our letter to you with all the love and friendship we know how to express.

Rev. Louis Toppan, W.H. Atkins, Mrs. C.J. King, Mrs. John Lowe, Mrs. Norman MacLeod.

(January 25, 1945)

Greetings to Our Service Men:

The opening topic of conversation nowadays is the weather. We have had several snow storms this month. The traveled ways are a white floor with banks of snow rolled up on either side by the plows of the town. Two cars slid off the road in front of the Canning Plant, but did not tip over. A town truck pulled one out and a neighbor's tractor the other. A truck stalled in a drift by Schoonmaker's was left until town plows dug it out. The wind blew from the northwest all last night and drifted some snow in by Schoonmaker's as well as down by Cowles'. The town snow plows got out at 9 p.m., and stayed on the job all night. This morning the temperature was 10 below zero and all water pipes in the henery were frozen. It is just zero as we write this.

A lot of zero weather has been sandwiched in with the other happenings. In spite of this, baby chicks are being hatched and some brooder houses have been occupied this last month. John Schoonmaker reports that he has orders for forty thousand or more to come out of his hatchery this spring. It will be an interesting sight to see them march out for their first morning breakfast.

Two books have come to our attention in connection with two South Amherst authors. One, by Robert Francis, entitled "The Sound I Listened For", published by McMillan

Company, is of such interest that the navy has placed an order for more than a thousand copies. One of equal interest and published by the New York Times is entitled, "The War in Maps" and has the name of Francis Brown as author. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brown, of West Street, have moved to San Diego, California, for Mr. Brown's health. Their son, Wendell Brown, is in the military at Temple University Medical School, Philadelphia, Penn.

Peter Coe, son of Roland Coe, the "Boy Scout cartoonist" for the Saturday Evening Post, had a birthday party this month with neighborhood youngsters to help him celebrate. Richard Wales, Jr., was promised a Shetland pony for Christmas if he would be a good boy; as we see him out on the pony's back we assume he was a good boy.

Miss Ruth Hoyer, teacher of the primary grade at the South Amherst School, gave up her work the first of the month because of an attack of appendicitis. Mrs. Helen Littlefield is substituting. Mumps have run their course from the young child to a lady of ninety years who fortunately is recovering from the disease.

Something almost as bad as mumps is the income tax. We do not mind paying the bill which helps the war along, but the mental tax is no small strain. To add Item A to Item B, subtract Item D from this result and then add this to the unknown quantity X is too much for one out of high school fifty years. Most of us just give up and go down to Judson Gouger and have him fix us up.

Brainard Lyman stops at the grade school here at the Green every Tuesday and sells war stamps. It is reported to us that this has amounted to about \$50.

Mrs. W.J. McKeeman has the work of taking the annual census of the people which includes their sex, age and occupation. When this is done, we will have a good checkup on all of you servicemen and know if we have missed any.

Now we will close this January newsletter with all the friendship and appreciation we know how to give to you.

South Amherst's Latest Letter To Its Servicemen

Odds and Ends of Village Life Forwarded to Boys Away From Home in Fight for Freedom

South Amherst, Mass.
February 22, 1945

Greetings to Our Servicemen:

A pleasant neighborhood excitement was caused when two riderless horses were seen, evidently in search of new pastures, galloping down the road one day this month. The owners, some young people from North Belchertown, found them that night calmly eating from Earl Wales' stack of hay.

The Judds have their 10 brooder houses filled with 2500 chickens. It has required a tractor snowplow several times to open the road for transporting grain and wood to the brooder houses on the hill.

There is much shortage of hay in the New England district. Hay sells as high as \$50 per ton; grain about \$60 per ton. The governor of the state has arranged for 100 cars of hay to come into the state in the next ten days.

William Russell has bought the William Hannigan home. We understand Mr. Hannigan will move to Northampton, where his laundry business is located.

Louls Miazga sold his land on West street to his neighbor, Ralph Crocker, and bought a place on East Main street, Amherst, where he will keep poultry. Mr. Crocker came to Amherst recently and bought the D. I. Smith farm on West street.

Eddie Wentworth, who was honorably discharged from the army a few months ago, has gone to Honolulu to work for the United States government. Robert Francis, similarly discharged two years ago, has a position as instructor in English at Mount Holyoke college.

Homer Cowles, who had mumps two months ago, now has scarlet fever. No other cases in South Amherst that we know of.

Mr. and Mrs. George Morse of West street are visiting their son, Nelson, in Florida. By the way, I guess Florida would have looked good to some of you this winter from what we have read of the weather many of you have experienced this season.

Mrs. Herbert Hutchings, Jr., with Diane, and Mrs. Marion Shumway Moon have taken an apartment in the house formerly

owned by Truman Coe and now fitted into apartments by Robert Stiles.

A long letter came from Rev. Leland Hunt who is now stationed as chaplain somewhere in Burma.

His wife and daughter are in Farmington, Me., where Mrs. Hunt is an instructor in a teachers' college. Mrs. Lowe reports receiving a letter from Wendell Brown. We have also heard from Fritz Capen. We expect you are getting the high school news letter, which gives full information where many of you are located.

Roger Smith is the father of a son. Mrs. Smith and boy are living at her former home in South Hadley. Mr. and Mrs. Doric Alviani are parents of a daughter. We expect to report more news of this nature in our next letter. If there are no new arrivals we can at least begin to celebrate the birthdays of the 1944 crop.

Sugar season is right here and maple trees will be tapped next week by those who have the trees. Maple syrup presented to you on some of this snow we have been talking about would make you think of the Old Home Town. We wish there was some way to do this.

The birds have had a hard time this winter, with all the vegetation covered. We saw three blue-jays picking away at crusts of bread yesterday. It was interesting to see them standing on the crusts to hold the bread down while they picked their lunch. It will not be long now before the snow will disappear and bare patches of grass will appear. Both Bill Atkins and Win Shumway have had heat in their greenhouses the past month; cabbage plants are up and being transplanted, beets are coming and tomatoes will be along on the home stretch. Yes, spring is here and we agree with Mrs. King, who says:

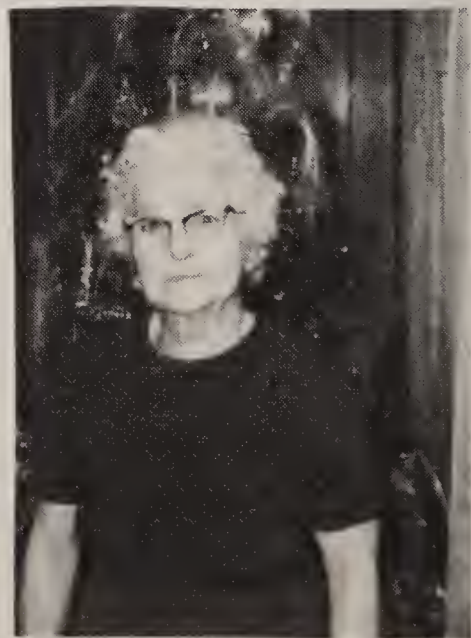
"The second one, of the twelve strokes in this cycle of time which we know as 1945, has already sounded. Twice a leaf has been torn from the new calendars. The sub-zero weather, deep snow and bright sunshine of Candlemas day assured us that February was living up to its reputation as a hard month. Hardship seems to be the background of some of the greatest leaders we have known, among them Lincoln, whose February birthday makes that month an important one on the calendar of every true American. A far-sighted public speaker recently said, 'These boys who come back from the war will make our world of tomorrow.' So be on the lookout, South Amherst men. To-

day's hardships may be seasoning the timber needed for tomorrow's building. Watch out for qualities of leadership like those in 'Honest Abe,' whose words of yesterday are alive with meaning today: 'The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present . . . With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves and with all nations.'"

On the evening of February 4, a large group of your home folks and friends gathered quickly and quietly in the welcoming atmosphere of subdued light and the soft music of the church organ. An ex-army chaplain, Rev. Roy M. Pearson of the First church, spoke with real feeling and high tribute to "those whom we honor tonight." Your names were read from the pulpit, were written in your Book of Honor, and this was placed on an altar between lighted candles. Above the altar hangs a beautiful silken flag, bearing for each one of you a blue star on a background of white. At the top is one gold star for Leonard Parker, and the border is a vivid red with golden fringe below. Yes, son, your name is written there, and this is our pledge to you that "Love keeps an inn, and welcomes home all those who walk outside."

We close with wholehearted friendship to you all, ever looking for the day that we may again be united on South Amherst soil.

Rev. Louis Toppan
Mrs. C. J. King
W. H. Atkins
Mrs. John Lowe
Mrs. Norman McLeod



Marie (Mrs. Chas.) Backe,
1972

LETTER TO SERVICEMEN

(March 28, 1945)

Charles King, by the way a veteran of the Spanish war, has resigned from the carrying of the school children and has sold his school bus to Winfred Shumway who will carry on. Mr. King has transported the pupils in this district for the past 24 years without any serious accident to the children, a record that is to be envied in these days of motor driving. We shall miss Mr. King as new hands take hold of the wheel but our appreciation will go out to the one who has so faithfully and well served the community.

Dr. Elliott, husband of Marjorie Atkins Elliott, reached Greece last week, where he works under UNRRA in livestock rehabilitation.

Ignes Mosakewicz has been honorably discharged from the army and has returned home. John Philipowicz was inducted into service the 21st with a small group of other Amherst men.

Miss Julia Tiffany, acting as nurse at the Clarke School, Northampton, had a group of children over here on an outing.

Chauncey Simmons has been obliged to give up farming because of serious back trouble. He has stored his household goods and has moved with his wife and two children to Belchertown. His grandfather, U.G. Groff, has secured a man to take Chauncey's place and will try to carry on the dairy and poultry business for a time.

Miss Kate Judd has sold the 60 acre farm of the B.F. Judd estate to Mathias Berglund of Springfield. Mr. Berglund is now working at the Bosch Magneto plant but will occupy his new home this spring. We are glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Berglund and their five-year-old son into our community life and trust their new home will meet all of their expectations.

Last week the red shop that was on the Pomeroy estate left its home of many years and took a journey down South East Street to the property of Fred A. Colby, where it will be converted into a home for young chicks.

The woodchucks are out and ready to gnaw the bark from the apple trees. We are getting cartridges from the Wild Life bureau of the government with which to blast the holes, hoping the concussion will kill Mr. Woodchuck. Mice have done some injury to the trees eating the bark under the snow while rabbits have run about on top of the snow and done some damage to the exposed trunks.

Perhaps you remember our writing of the duck pond that Mr. Poor had constructed on Plum Brook; this is now being occupied by a family of ducks. The pond is so constructed that there is a small island in the middle. We are told the ducklings have to swim around the island each morning before they can have their breakfast.

Late flash! A daughter, Sandra, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jon Moon this morning. Mrs. Moon is the former Marian Shumway.

"The Hampshire Gazette" published our last letter in its daily the first of the month. We were pleased with the heading they gave the letter as "Odds and Ends of Village Life."

SOUTH AMHERST HOME GREETING
TO SERVICE FOLK

Hampshire Gazette May 4, 1945

Amherst, Mas.

April 24, 1945

Greetings from the Hometown:

Wild life has enjoyed the early spring. The writer has seen five wild deer in the early morning, crossing the lower branch of Bay road. They made an attractive sight as they bounded across the fields, their tails representing great white plumes. Rabbits, with their little stub tails, hopping over the road away from the approaching car; a grey squirrel out of his hiding to get the spring breezes; a cock pheasant covered with the most resplendent plumage of startling colors; the wild duck by the roadside pond, proceeding to take wing for a more secluded spot; the partridge or quail slipping away through the underbrush; a lone crow winging his way, perhaps toward some more distant cornfield; the blackbirds and robins on the lawns in search of a worm or some inviting morsel—all these make us realize that spring is on its march among the wild life of the old hometown.

We do not have any farm sales to report this time, but two families have changed the location of their homes. Charles Backe and family of Middle street have moved into the home of Ralph Whitcomb of West street; Richard Wales and family of South East street have moved into the house formerly occupied by the Backes. In some of our letters we have mentioned the kindergarten, which represents a much younger generation than Mr. Jewett. Perhaps you would be interested to know the names of the little scholars, most of whom were able to attend a party given by Merrilee Atkins this week: Allen Schoonmaker, Jackie Leslie, Eddie Brace, Johnny Schoonmaker, Dickie Berglund, Dickie Wales, Charles-Edmund MacChesney, Sylvia Holt, Priscilla Goman, Jimmie Hannigan, Roberta Hebart, Peter Coe, Philip Kershlis and Mary Wentworth.

The town people wish in some way to dedicate a memorial to you boys. It has been suggested by the selectmen that the playground now being developed on Triangle street would be appropriate. There would be an opportunity for the citizens of the town to subscribe to special, designated memorials, such as the gate-way, children's pool, or tennis court. What do you think of this?



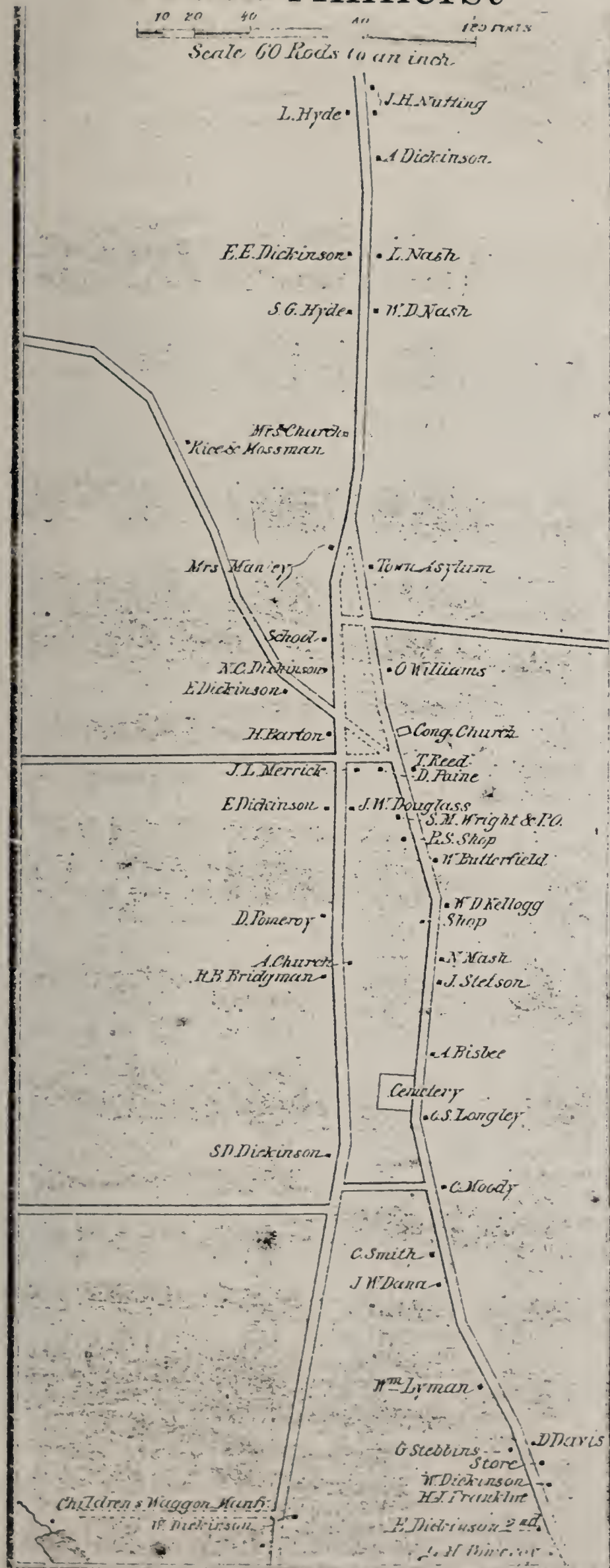
Across the street, and north of Hutchings, the old Waitstill Dickinson house. (Salem Hammond's house patterned after it.) E. Wentworth, M. Berglund, H. Atkins later owners. Old barn still standing. (Waitstill and Howard were both selectmen of Amherst.) 1973 (H.M.)

Long Leaf Farm, owned many years by Ralph Whitcomb of West St; now Backe's. (M.B.)

APPENDIX

South Amherst

10 20 40 60 80 100 FEET
Scale 60 Rods to an inch.



(Courtesy Amherst Town Hall)

Owner: Mr. Francis R. Richmond, 249 East Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass.

1860 MAP OF THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE

From surveys by Henry F. Walling Supt. of the State Map

An 1860 Hampshire County map with a section devoted to So. Amherst when Amherst's population was 2,937. Owned by Francis R. Richmond, the map gives former residents of many old houses still inhabited. Probable identification, with occupants in era of 1930-1952 is as follows:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| South East St. | also called Church Street |
| Oren Williams | Morell's (cellar hole) |
| T. Reed | N. MacLeod |
| S.W. Wright and P.O. | C. King and P.O. |
| W.D. Kellogg | cellar hole north of Shumway |
| shop | (blacksmith shop?) |
| N. Nash | (Holt) Koeber |
| J. Stetson | W. Cowles |
| A. Bisbee | D. Hawthorne |
| O.S. Longley | C. Shumway |
| C. Moody | Truman Smith |
| C. Smith | Rob't Schoonmaker, Sr. |
| J.W. Dana | H. Wentworth, W.C. Atkins |
| W. Lyman | (A. Dickinson) L. Tiffany |
| D. Davis | (Hammond) Geo., W.H. Atkins |
| G. Stebbins | Ben Judd, Kate and Lillian |
| Store | (C. Tiffany, J. Vondell, |
| | C. Backe) A. Tidlund |
| W. Dickinson | Wentworth, Berglund (H. Atkins) |
| H.F. Franklin | |
| Enos Dickinson 2nd | (Cecil Jewett) Cliff Tiffany |
| L.H. Pomeroy | H. Hutchings |
| Lieutenant Enos Dickinson lived at "the big house" north west of the Post Office. | |

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Middle Street | — also called Maple Street |
| J.L. Merrick | Herb Dwight |
| E. Dickinson | |
| D. Pomeroy | H. Barton — R. Coe |
| A. Church | Wilbur Shumway |
| R.B. Bridgman | (G. Hannum) J. Tufts |
| S.D. Dickinson | C. Wales |

The Town Asylum was sold in 1914.

Water power from brook — shown in lower left corner provided for the Children's Wagon Manufy. According to W. H. Atkins "for a sawmill and cider mill as late as 1890 and as early as 1863 for making of pumps, shingles and broomsticks." It also provided ice for the area, from Merrick's ice pond, at the turn of the century.

Compare with 1950 map of South Amherst.



Looking up So. East Street, 1973 (H.M.)

Aerial photo by Bill Shumway in 1944 of South Amherst center before influx of houses and removal of old barns, greenhouses, and village smithy, 1966. The unnamed crossway used by the Shumways is visible. Dwight Shumway, grandfather of Win, had a small shop in the backyard along the little road. He repaired wagons and sleds and almost anything else like Carl Dickinson's air rifle. Hubert Barton's big barn is seen on Middle Street, and Earl Goman's greenhouses. In foreground, to right, is Cowles', a typical New England farm set up with the ell of the house running back toward the barn. Tufts', on the left, is the same. The newly added kitchen can be seen at the east end of the church. Pomeroy Lane is free of houses. To the north is East Amherst, and farther off, Mt. Toby. (See map insert of 1952) (Jemima Kerr French)

South Amherst





THE HILLS COMPANY

1905

A hat factory where young Atkins worked a 10-hour day — after chores on the home farm — located in East Amherst near C & V Railroad.
c. Jones Library



Naomi, daughter of A.B. Howard, in front of his greenhouse .
Belchertown, Mass. About 1901.



Wm. H. Atkins

Circa 1888-89 (C.M.M.)



William and Naomi, 1948, in Raleigh, N.C.



OLD HOME DAY at Granville, 1956. Mrs. W.H. Atkins with Atkins descendants and relatives eating lunch.
Betty-Jane, Linda and Marion Atkins in foreground.
Behind them, their cousins, Susan and Martha McChesney.



Completion of the Atkins home, 1905, So. East Street. Built from pine cut on the farm. (See survey with "fringe on top.") (C.M.M.)



Marjorie and Howard A., about 1922, sitting on kitchen porch steps. (W.C.A.)

February 22, 1950



In 1930, when Naomi's Heavenly Blue Morning Glories graced the homestead.

Josiah Gilbert Holland



JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND.

from Clifton Johnson's

Picturesque Hampshire, published 1890.

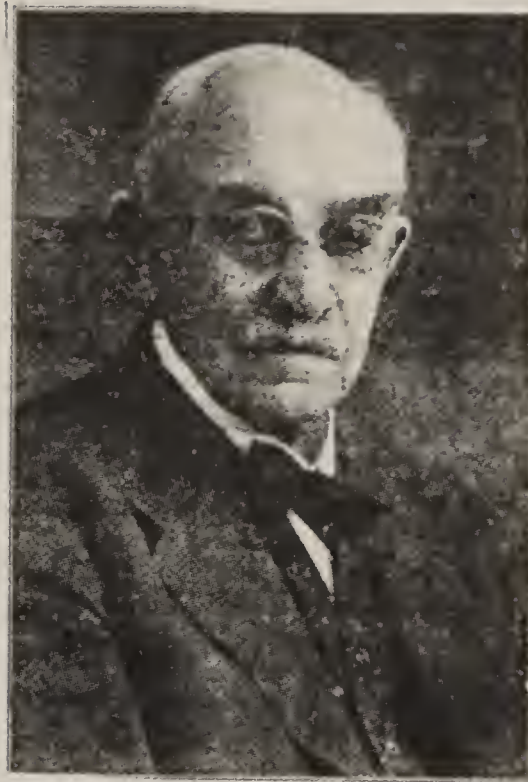
Born at Logtown, 1812, author, historian, and editor of *Springfield Republican*, *Century* and *Scribners*. Holland's Glen named after him, as instigated by A.B. Howard.



Prospect House, in the foreground of Mt. Holyoke Hotel, affording a spectacular view of the Connecticut River at the turn of the century.

(From old stationery)

John Chester Hammond, dean of the Hampshire county bar and one of Northampton's most prominent citizens, died this afternoon at two o'clock at his home on Elm street, in his 84th year. Death was due to heart failure. April 21, 1926



J.C. Hammond, a South Amherst resident on So. East Streets until 1859, gave the address on OLD HOME DAY, Aug. 17, 1921. Copy at Jones Library.

Mr. Hammond, had been in poor health for the last few weeks, but up until a short time ago was able to attend to his usual duties. Last June, he was honored with the degree of LL. D. at Amherst college.

He was born in Amherst August 15, 1842. He was educated in the public schools, Amherst academy and Williston seminary, where he graduated in 1861. He matriculated at Amherst college and was graduated with the class of 1865. While still in college Mr. Hammond began the study of law, continuing it in the office of Hon. Charles Delano at Northampton during vacations, and while he was a high school principal during the following three years. He was admitted to the Hampshire county bar in October, 1868; practiced law in this city since that time, first with Mr. Delano as Delano and Hammond, then with Henry P. Field as Hammond and Field, and since 1903 with his son, District Attorney Thomas J. Hammond, under the present firm name of Hammond and Hammond.

Mr. Hammond was admitted to practice in the United States circuit court in 1872. His practice had been continuous, and in the same law office for more than 56 years. It was varied and often had special references to equity cases. Mr. Hammond

was district attorney for six years, beginning in 1897; he has served as a trustee of Hopkins academy in Hadley since 1870, and had been a member of the board of trustees of the Clarke school for the deaf, and of Williston academy. For ten years he was president of the board of trustees of the state sanatorium for consumptives at Rutland. He served on the Metropolitan Park commission with the late Charles Francis Adams and the late Thomas M. Stetson, and in 1913 was elected president of the Massachusetts Bar Association. The annual address delivered by him at the annual meeting, Dec. 23, 1913, was a discussion of "The Great and General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, During Its Less Than 60 Years of Existence, Beginning in 1630."

Coolidge Was His Law Student

Perhaps Mr. Hammond's greatest claim to popular distinction has been due to the fact that President Coolidge studied law in his office, following his graduation from Amherst.

Nine surviving members of Mr. Hammond's class, 1865, now 61 years out of college, held a reunion at the 1925 commencement. Mr. Hammond entertained them with their families at his home on Elm street June 14, 1925.

(Clipping courtesy of Mrs. Ethel Hammond Connell)

"OLD HOME DAY"

AUG. 17, 1921

SO. AMHERST, MASS.

ADDRESS OF JOHN C. HAMMOND

I greet you all as friends and neighbors as we gather here to-day to exchange family and neighborly reminiscences and relate the events of other days.

Although I ceased to live on the old homestead, now the Atkins place, in the fall of 1859 when seventeen years of age, I have always been a neighbor. I come this way often. The glad hand of welcome which all extend seems like sunshine to me. I frequently recall as my sentiment the familiar lines—

How dear to this heart

Are the scenes of my childhood.

When fond recollections present them to view.

Yes, even to the old oaken bucket that hung in father's well.

My invitation was to bring informal reminiscences of those days.

Only the few of you who are three score and ten at least can have memory of those days. Reminiscences are necessarily of detached events. I leave the artistic picture to Miss Bridgman,¹ Amy who will follow me, commissioned to speak of South Amherst of the future, perhaps of present days also. I wish she had been asked to speak of the life and work of her maternal grandfather, George Nutting, who built the meeting house. Because the things of sixty years ago and more are vivid in my memory I recall them.

Writ large on my memory is the District Number Seven School in the brick school house south of "Dyer" Robbins home² (now Dr. Sanderson's) almost down to the Methodist Chapel, on the Bay Road; the half-way high school sometimes held in the second story of the old school house west of "The Green," and one or two winters held in the Methodist Chapel. This white church is beautiful to me then and now. I recall also the people who filled the pews and the large chorus choir led by William Dickinson and his violin. The second violin by George Pomeroy, the bass viol, the double bass viol, the flute, the singing school, and also the grievous dissensions growing out of divergent views about the singing and the minister.

I remember that my father and Baxter Bridgman, who took very inactive parts in the affair, rather favored opposite sides. I heard them expressing the deepest regret at the dissensions, whatever its cause. But enough of what had better be forgotten.

But let me relieve the gloomy picture by an amusing episode. That double bass viol, a very choice one, was in dispute as to ownership between the rival parties. It disappeared. A parishioner found it hidden in his barn. He at once accused his son, a supporter of Mr. Dickinson and his choir, of the injudicious act. It

could not stay there. A few knew that the next caretaker was requested on the quiet to lend it and did lend it to a musical club at the college. He gave the hint that he did not much care when it was returned. Frank Pomeroy can give you their names. It has never come back. Why not appoint Professor Goodale a committee of one to hunt it up?

We of School District Number Seven can never forget the memory of Miss Emily Nutting. She was almost my only Common school teacher, except in winter. Next to my parents hers was the greatest influence on my life.

What joy in the school children's games! Big boys played ball. We smaller children played tag in the street and in the fields.

It was the custom to employ a man to teach the winter term. Richard Baxter Bridgman and Cummings Fish in the old Brick School House. Henry B. Prince in the new one.

The Methodist Chapel—it had a very attractive interior.³ Alas, that it has disappeared. In the sad days of church differences at the white church I, with my brothers, Lyman and Henry, sometimes had to leave to go there. We heard there occasionally Ebenezer Nutting and Cummings Fish; both were occasional lay preachers and men of ability and devotion. Rev. John Jones, of Pelham, preached acceptably there for a considerable time. I remember his coming and going, driving his farm horse. He did much good at very small recompense in money.

I remember the two-story brick school house on the west side of The Green.⁴ In the second story was for a time the select school for fall and winter. I can recall the pupils and their seating. The teachers young undergraduates from the college. The east end of this room, too large and cold, had been partitioned off. In that part remained a long wall seat with a long writing desk in front. Trusty scholars were allowed to go in there to study. The fun and whispering which went on in there never came to the teacher's notice.

This attractive village church. I cherish all my recollections of it. Father's first family pew was about half way up on the north side with Deacon Stetson. As the children began to attend, our family was assigned the pew on the south side, where my father's name appears on the memorial window.

Time permits mention of few names. I hold the memory of Rev. Mr. J.L. Merrick, the minister in those days, in respect, although our family thought his position on the dissensions unfortunate. He was devout, learned, but unable to get next to the young people, a severe critic of youthful pranks, of the levity in the choir, and of any who differed with him. He often alluded to his experience of a few years as Missionary in Persia. He expressed with emphasis his . . .

opinion that the American Board of Foreign Missions erred in his recall. Frequently he dwelt on this grievance.

The Deacons. Deacon Dana and Deacon Stetson, both honored in their stations. If their prayers at evening meetings were in part in set phrases, repeated each time, some of which come to mind now, they were none the less fitting and impressive, full of the spirit of devotion.

Deacon Nathaniel Dickinson, who had resigned, lived in his last days where Mr. Adams now lives, north of the post office.⁵ He had by age become inactive. Was a man greatly beloved and respected.

Deacon Lebbeus Chapin, not a deacon of the church here, but of the Palmer Church, from which he came, a man of God, gifted in prayer, gifted in exhortation; Gifted in the ability to get the confidence of and to influence children. We gathered around him if he met us going to and from school. Boys gathered around him in midsummer intermission between the two Sunday services. It was under the big maple tree in the lot behind the horse sheds. He never rebuked their boy talks if a bit worldly. But somehow he so chatted with us as to make us feel his example as a beloved, Godly man.

Keeping Saturday night after sundown and calling Sunday night secular was the common practice here. My mother, a native of Hadley, had been so brought up. Father had been accustomed to keeping Sunday night. Result, the Hammond boys never quite knew which. They rather gained in liberty by the indulgence of both. I remember my father's chuckle when one of the church leaders who was strong for keeping Saturday night drove by, Sunday, about sun down, a little early on his way to his pasture where he kept the young cattle. Father said "he must have started before sundown."

Time will permit of reference to few by name. Lieutenant Enos Dickinson lived in the large house northwest of the church; a strong pillar in church support; tall, dignified. I remember him as he walked up the south aisle to his side pew now removed which was just in line with the aisle.

Charles F. Hayward, uncle of the present Charles, and a large family, always filled the back southeast corner pew.

There was Esquire Bogue, dignified in demeanor, careful in dress. He always attended and sat near the front, a body pew south side. He lived in the brick house, south end, where a Mr. Smith now lives.

Marcus Goodale, of what is now called Dwight's, then "Logtown," whose second wife was Julia Cadwell, always attended, although the road was long.

Capt. Enos Dickinson, who lived next north of

what is now the Hutchinson place, and his nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Waitstill Dickinson,⁶ who lived opposite to him on the farm next south of my home. Their many children called Mrs. Dickinson Aunt Thankful. We all fondly did the same. The Dickinson boys were my nearest boy neighbors. I hope to meet Henry and Dan here to-day.

The large Pomeroy family, my uncle, aunt and cousins. How good their social home life; how good their grapes and peaches. Cousin Frank Pomeroy, the youngest, is with us.

Samuel Prince, efficient farmer, stalwart of frame, rough of demeanor, but cordial and respected.

The three Nutting families, Ebenezer, Truman, Levi and their many children. Elijah, of my own age, recently wrote me a letter. He is influential and very prosperous in his Minnesota home.

The Goodale boys, John, Charles and Samuel, are well remembered associates. Charles, who is still with us, brought back with him from the Civil War a lieutenant's commission. His son Alfred, who well represents the old stock, helps make this day a glad success. His position in Amherst College honors his family and honors this community.

There was Alvah Robbins, whose farm on the Bay Road afterwards came to Dwight Thayer.⁷ His practical skill as the veterinary surgeon of the village was often in demand.

His brother, Zebediah W. Robbins, lived, as I have said, in the house now of Dr. Mary Sanderson. He was enterprising and active. What more interested us children, he never objected to our climbing the maple trees or roaming over his hill lot, back of the school house. The light and life of his home went out when his only child, Isaac, a boy of six or eight years, was instantly killed in the door yard by the fall of the well sweep. There was no more energy in his life. He soon died. Mrs. Robbins, to whom the farm was bequeathed, sold it to her brother, J. Eugene Sanderson, who died in recent years.

The name Dickinson was even more common here than in Hadley, or in other parts of Amherst. There were twelve Dickinsons of mature age whom I remember and can name, and an immense number of young people and children. I mention—Nathaniel Dickinson, Enos Dickinson, first; Captain Enos Dickinson, Waitstill Dickinson, Eastman Dickinson, Lucius Dickinson, William Dickinson, Chester Dickinson and Rufus Dickinson. Probably I have omitted some. Yes—Samuel Dickinson.

Of the Dickinson boys, Edwin and Albert, sons of Asa Dickinson, Edwin became my college classmate. He made an honored record at Ligonier, Pa., as preacher and instructor, fitting pupils for college. After a life of good work he now lies buried here

There was the little wagon shops. Chandler Hayward's on the main road south.

Now all gone, as well as the Lucius Dickinson shop over west. No good place for boys to swim now.

The road from Hayward's shop to Nuttingville was then called the "new" road.⁸ I think I remember seeing it built.

Baxter Bridgman was a strong force in village uplift, in church and town matters.⁹ One of the very best of farmers. His boys, Herbert, Raymond and Arthur, and his daughters are grand examples of a noble ancestry. His daughter, who speaks to us to-day, will present a better picture than I can of this most interesting community in its present and the outlook on the future. She may omit to remind you that her brother Herbert has been given the distinguished honor of Doctor of Laws by our college. A man eminent in his editorial calling; distinguished as a traveller and writer.

Dickinson Kellogg and Aretas Bisbee, the village shoemakers, had their shops, now gone, right on the street line on the road south from the church.⁹ What places for visiting neighbors to meet!

The unchanged village store and post office—the very best place to loaf. The village club.

Joseph Douglas, a most unique character, equally skillful as cooper to repair the cider barrel and, as the butcher, always on call when swine or beef must be prepared for home use or market.

Mr. Wright's village blacksmith shop, now gone, stood a little south of the church on the west side.

I must mention Oliver Nash and his children, Timothy, Horace and Susan. His farm is next north of ours, the Dana farm. One day Timothy treed a gray squirrel on a line elm between the two farms. I was in the pasture for the cows. He persuaded me to keep guard while he ran to his home for his gun. He found he was short of ammunition. I could see him as he galloped his horse back to the village store for it. He came back, got his squirrel. I got a suitable reward in coin. After Oliver Nash's instant death by being thrown from a load of hay, the family went away and Joseph Dana, son of Deacon Dana, lived there, as does his son, to-day.¹⁰

I must mention William Lyman.¹¹ He lived where Albert Dickinson now does. In my earliest recollection he was living unmarried with his aunt, Mrs. Morse, who owned and devised the farm to him. He seemed pleased to have me, as a boy, follow him around. He often spent his evenings in our home until he married. Two of their children were among the nine on our street who died in a dreadful epidemic of scarlet fever. I remember the fear and dread in every house. Isolation was not practiced or known. Mother was often called where a child was sick and dying.

Repair of roads was by so much labor and team work of every one, under the direction of the district road surveyor, according to the assessment. There was much visiting among workers on the road. It was enjoyed by me, as I was permitted to count on father's list. Of course, there was little efficiency compared with methods of to-day.

Breaking roads in winter snowdrifts was with three yoke of cattle, supplied easily, as every farmer had a pair.

The selling of mature oxen to be driven to Brighton or Providence was an income element. I remember going with father to deliver a pair at Belchertown, where the drover was to collect his purchases and begin his drive to market.

No railroad then entered Amherst. The Connecticut River Railroad was talked of as new. The question was up in town meeting of aiding to get the road up from Palmer. President Edward Hitchcock arose and addressed the voters. He said the life of Amherst College required a railroad to Amherst. Said if it was not to come it was possible that the trustees would feel compelled to remove the college to some place accessible by railroad. Needless to say, his and other like arguments prevailed.

Before the railroad days the stage, sometimes with four horses, used to pass through our East Street and by the brick school house on its trips to and from Palmer. It seemed to us children an event of the greatest moment — a suggestion of the great world outside which we had never seen.

At the town meeting above referred to and others I was a looker on. Father kindly took me along. I remember that they were held in the basement of the Village Church, now College Hall.

As to town officers my recollection does not serve me well. I do remember that father, with Ezra Ingram and Austin Eastman, assessed taxes. I remember when rainy days kept the assessors from the ends of the town at home, some conversations which evidently amused my father. A taxpayer urgently claimed that his assessment was too high, according to what was taxed on his neighbor. I am told that similar incidents occur in these days.

Prices: Twelve dollars per ton was a good price for Number One hay; thirty-five dollars for a new milch cow was the very highest price. The minister's salary was five hundred dollars and the parsonage.

How many know that the brook which takes a straight line to the north through the pastures on the flats to the east was turned that way by the united work of the much earlier settlers. I know of no tradition other than the fact. The beginning of the new ditch is on the Hutchinson farm, if my memory is correct.¹² I know it used to be turned into the old

channel sometimes so that the new ditch could be cleaned and improved. The original channel crossed the east end of father's farm and entered Hop Brook not far to the north.¹³

The history of Amherst (p. 334) tells us that South Amherst first had a post office in 1841.

Postmasters—

Hiram H. Allen, three years, to 1845.

Waitstill Dickinson, five years, to 1849.

Charles F. Hayward, seven years, to 1856.

Sylvanus M. Wright, six years, to 1863.

Thomas Reed, two years, to 1865.

I cannot recall the post office at any place but the brick store. Probably my memory is at fault.

The "Meeting House," as it was then called, was built in 1825 (History of Amherst, p. 221). Amherst had then been settled and had had only one church for almost one hundred years. Some of these large old houses must have been built by the men who first fenced and subdued the farms.

Do we realize how tradition has failed to keep alive any knowledge of who settled. South Amherst first and what they did?

Who can tell who were the few first settlers in South Amherst?

Who built the large dignified old houses?

Who built the taverns on the Old Bay Road? The Bridgman Tavern east, near Belchertown line? The Cook Tavern almost over to Hadley line — its owner's name I do not remember?

Who fenced off these farms with split chestnut rails, built zig-zag, called Virginia fence? How much of the land was clear? How did they live and get the lands cleared of stumps? In 1850-1859 these fences had marks of great age, of course. I never heard any narratives as to the builders.

With what burden, labor and energy were these roads and farms laid out, made and fenced!

When the name Amherst was first used, about 1776, the town had one hundred and twenty ratable polls and about two hundred houses, that is about one thousand inhabitants. It had outgrown Hadley.

South Amherst, with its abundant tillage land and pastures, was fully as well settled as the other parts of the town.

These South Amherst farms must have been laid out, tilled, and houses built almost one hundred years before we had a church and post office here.

Judd's History of Hadley, of which Amherst was a part, and Carpenter and Morehouse's valuable History of Amherst, neither of them could enter into the details of these homes or first settlers of South Amherst. Is it not probable that much of this could be collected even now? Will not some of you give us pen pictures of the old homes and the old families

and the old traditions? Doubtless the new Jones Library, with its generous endowment, would lend its aid in collecting and preparing and preserving such material.

Do not forget the beauty of location. A distinguished English clergyman, settled over a New York church, was speaking at a commencement dinner. He began thus: "Beautiful for situation is Mount Zion, the joy of the whole earth," and added, with emphasis, "That means Amherst." This is true of every hill and valley, of every homestead, in this our native village, South Amherst. I wonder if you all appreciate the depth of beauty — the hills and the valleys, the rugged Norwottuck on the south, the wonderful landscape with attractive homes.

South Amherst in the retrospect of sixty to seventy years does not suffer as you compare it with the present. Then as now there were attractive homes and well-kept, fertile farms. While the little manufacturing industries have gone down the farms are better tilled and more productive, the homes are more comfortable. You of South Amherst to-day, with improved lighting facilities (we used tallow candles and whale oil lamps), a public water system, better roads, the R.F.D., the telephone and the automobile, are no longer secluded but are in and of all the currents of life.

Finally this place is a goodly heritage. Be proud of it. Cherish it. If your richest acre of soil is wet, underdrain it. If new comers arrive and settle with us, welcome them cordially. I know you do. Sustain all measures for good community service. Don't neglect your houses of worship. I say this equally to the old Protestant families and the more recent settlers of the Catholic faith who are your good and prosperous neighbors.

I know that you of the South Amherst of to-day will always continue as in the past, a God-fearing, law-abiding people.

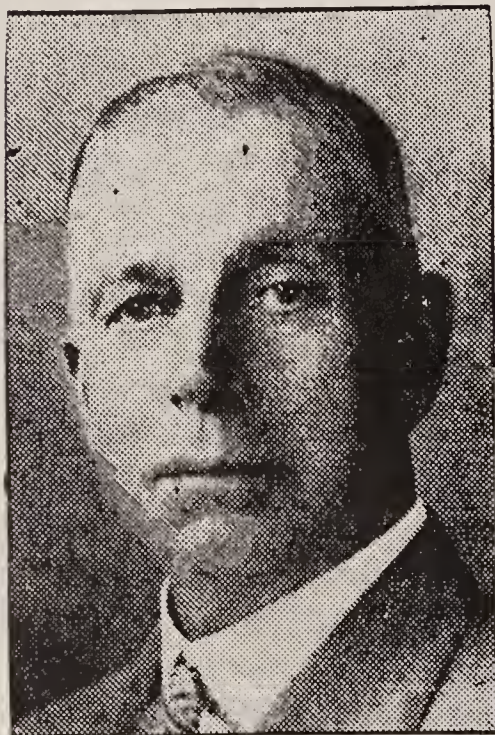
Footnotes by the editor

1. Amy Bridgman, daughter of Baxter Bridgman.
 2. John Slaby's house.
 3. Alfieri's barn; burned with house in 1929
 4. Near Fred Adams'.
 5. Bradley Gage's.
 6. Howard Atkins'.
 7. Fred Jewett's
 8. Chapel Road; now Mechanic.
 9. Kellogg's -n. of Win Shumway's; Bisbee's later Hawthorne's.
 10. J. Dana's later H. Wentworth's, W.C. Atkins' place.
 11. In 1950's, Lila Tiffany's.
 12. H. Hutchings', not Hutchinson's. Farm purchased 1865 from Frank Pomeroy's father.
 13. W.H. Atkins'.
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Amherst

WILLIAM ATKINS PLANS TO RETIRE

Has Served 36 Years as Amherst Selectman



WILLIAM H. ATKINS

November 27, 1947

Amherst, Nov. 15 — William H. Atkins, 76, of South East St., South Amherst, made known today that he is to retire next March upon the expiration of his present term as selectman, an office that he will have held continuously for 36 years. On Jan. 1 Mr. Atkins also is to retire as proprietor and manager of the 200 acre Atkins dairy, fruit and poultry farm, which he has owned and operated for 40 years. His successors will be his two sons, Howard Atkins and William Chandler Atkins, who for several years have been associated with their father and who as the third generation will maintain the tradition of the Atkins Farm, which his father, the late George H. Atkins bought in 1887.

During his long service as selectman, Mr. Atkins has seldom had opposition either for nomination or election which reflects the general feeling that he has aimed to represent the entire town fairly and squarely. He has never held any other town office. About 10 years ago he was the unsuccessful Republican nominee for Hampshire county commissioner.

For four decades Mr. Atkins has held an important place in county town and community civic, and agricultural organizations and the South Amherst Congregational Church of which he is a trustee and former deacon. He is also a trustee of the Amherst Savings bank. He is president of the South Amherst Village Improvement Society.

Gave Library Site

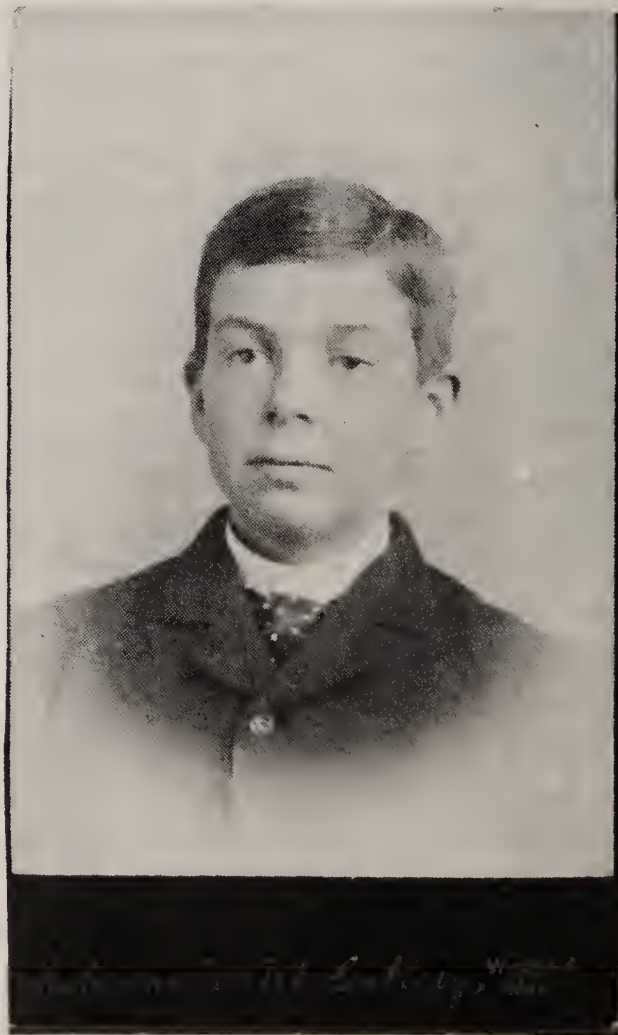
In 1930 Mr. Atkins gave to the town the site of the Munson Memorial library at South Amherst, which was founded by the late Mrs. Parnell Munson and he is now a trustee. He is a member of the South Amherst Grange.

Mr. Atkins is a former president of the Hampshire County Fruit Growers' Association and a former president of the County Selectmen's Association and a former trustee of the County Extension Service. He was the president of the Hampshire Agricultural Fair Association when its last fair was held in 1918 at Amherst. During the recent war Mr. Atkins and Mrs. Charles J. King wrote the newsy mimeographed letters from home that were sent each month to all the South Amherst boys and girls in service. The work was so well done newspapers of this area often used excerpts from them.

A native of West Granville, Mr. Atkins was 16 when his parents moved to South Amherst and he was graduated in 1890 from Amherst High School. Starting in 1891 for one year he was employed in the Hills Co. hat shop. Arising at 5 a.m. he drove three and one half miles and was on the job at 7, quitting at 6 p.m., for which he received at the start \$1 a day as shipping clerk. In a few months his pay was raised to \$1.25 a day. From 1892 until 1907 he was associated with his father on the farm.

With more than 2000 fruit trees, a present dairy of 25 cows and 1200 in the poultry yards the Atkins Farm is one of the most progressive and productive in this section.

The boyhood home in the woods of West Granville, Mass. where lived Geo. Atkins and his wife; Mary, William and Mabel.



young William A.

MUNSON LIBRARY IS DEDICATED AT SOUTH AMHERST

Keys of Memorial Building Turned Over to Town— \$30,000 Fund Made Struc- ture Possible Oct. 10, 1930

Amherst, Oct. 10 — South Amherst now has its own library and community center. The Munson Memorial library was dedicated this evening and the keys turned over by the library committee to the town.

The program follows; Selections, South Amherst orchestra; invocation, Rev Eben F. Francis; remarks, Sumner R. Parker; "History of the Library," Rev. Eben Francis; violin selections, Robert C. Francis; "History of the Village Green," written by Mrs. C. W. Miller and read by her brother, William H. Atkins, selectman from South Amherst; trio, Miss Marjorie Atkins, Miss Esther Schoonmaker and Miss Phyllis Corry; presentation of keys, Cady R. Elder, Chairman of the library committee; acceptance, Melrose S. Paige, chairman of the selectmen; address, "Library Service for South Amherst," Charles R. Green, librarian of the Jones library. The program closed with music by the orchestra, after which ice cream and cake were served.

Description of Library

The building was located in October, 1929, by the committee, on land given by W.H. Atkins. It is approximately 100 feet north of the Congregational church. The plans were prepared by Karl Putnam of Northampton. The building is of brick and the wing of wood, having the proportions of a Connecticut valley house of a century ago. The forecourt has a formal garden with stone-paved walks leading directly to the community hall entrance loggia opposite the entrance gate, and to the front door of the library in the north wing. The old-fashioned doorway opens into a vestibule leading on one side to a reading and book room and on the other to a room devoted to the children. Each interior has a wide fireplace.

The auditorium may be entered from the garden through a brick-arched loggia into a main corridor, having coat rooms at one end and access to the stage rooms and to the library at the other. Toilets and storage rooms are in the basement. The community hall will seat about 200 people. It has a slightly vaulted ceiling and is lighted through long east windows. The stage is suitable for entertainments and the kitchenet may be used to serve refreshments.

\$30,000 Fund Bequeathed

Mr. Francis in his address said the "real beginning" of the library was in the mind of Parnell Munson, born in Michigan in 1821, who came to Amherst after retiring from business in the West. He was the first president of the South Amherst Improvement Association which secured the control of the green which

the library takes. He was killed in 1890 by falling from a train on his way home from Boston. His widow lived at Amherst until 1894 when she moved to Springfield where she died in 1914.

Mr. Francis read the sections of Mrs Munson's will giving \$30,000 for a memorial library. He told how a site at the center had been secured when Samuel Minot Jones left a much larger sum which provided for the Jones library and the Munson library was allocated to South Amherst.

The original committee consisted of William I. Fletcher, Herbert T. Cowles, George F. Mills, and Dr. Frederick Tuckerman. The present committee in charge of location and building comprises Robert S. Fletcher, Albion G. Allen, Cady R. Elder, Anderson A. MacKimmie and William H. Atkins.

The original bequest was \$30,000.

The amount spent in connection with the lot in Amherst Center was \$8,72.37. When construction began the fund was \$43,891.15.

Mr. Green said in part: —

"America is a land of great benefactions. The statisticians tell us that approximately \$2,000,000,000 is given away annually by American benefactors, an average of \$16 for each person in the United States.

"Some people declare they never get their share or any part of these great benefactions. In reality everyone shares; no one can escape them. Boys and girls are helped through college; all the people, regardless of creed, race, or nationality, are helped by the public libraries; lovers of art benefit through the art galleries, museums, grand opera houses, and endowed orchestras; the sick, injured, and blind are cared for in the hospitals."



The Munson Memorial Library, north of the church. Both the site for the meeting house, given in 1824 by Deacon Nathaniel Dickinson, and the site for the library given in 1929, by W.H. Atkins, came out of the one farm property. (Jones Library)

The (Merrick) Dwight house, facing the Common. (C.D.)



This home owned and lived in by Rev. James Merrick 1849-1863, prior to purchase of parsonage with funds donated by Lieut. Enos Dickinson.

THE SOUTH AMHERST GREEN

Prepared for the dedication of the Munson Mem.
Library Oct. 10, 1930

One of the most charming characteristics of a New England village is its plot of greensward, shaded by the friendly boughs of elms or maples, around which are usually clustered a church, a school, house, attractive dwellings, and perhaps a store and postoffice.

In some villages, such a plot is a setting for a fountain designed to add to the natural beauty of the place; in others, a soldiers' monument reminds all who pass by of the price paid by former generations for present peace and security.

But in many such quiet centers we find, as in South Amherst, that beauty has been secured by the simple, chaste dignity of a smooth expanse of well-kept lawn, bordered by graceful trees.

At the dedication of this latest addition to the buildings facing the common, or green, (as it is most frequently called) it may be of interest to trace its history and that of the homes around it.¹

To do this, we must go back to the mother town of Hadley, which was settled in 1659. Fourteen years later, 1678, having increased in numbers and needing more land, the General Court granted it the territory lying east of it, as far as the Pelham and Belchertown hills.

Indian wars prevented any further action till 1703, when this whole section was laid out in "peces", according to the old records, for which the Hadley men were entitled to draw lots.

Dividing these "peces" from north to south ran highways each forty rods wide. In old Hadley's West Street the generous width proposed for Amherst highways may still be seen.

Evidently such a great width was not felt to be necessary here by the inhabitants, for there were lawsuits from time to time, due to the abutters encroaching on the highway, and in time the streets were narrowed to five rods, but the memory of the original plan is preserved for us in the Amherst, East Amherst, and South Amherst commons, though this one does not measure the full forty rods.

Early in its history, the road to Amherst went diagonally northwest from the church across the common, climbing the hill north of the present school and dwelling house, then turning south and winding around the big rock in the lot opposite the Munson house and at an easy slope coming into the present road-bed. The map of Amherst made in 1772 indicates this road.

I judge that for many years the common was neglected, being a dumping place for whatever was no

longer wanted and having a marshy mudhole in the middle.

Probably this unsightly condition was one of the factors which led to the formation of the South Amherst Village Improvement Society.

This society was organized at a meeting held in the church in April 1883, its object being "to promote the improvement and beauty of public and private property in South Amherst."

Parnell Munson was elected president, J.F. Morell, vice-president, and C.S. Walker, secretary and treasurer, and an executive committee of three members was chosen.²

At the town meeting the previous March, the town had voted to give the use and control of the South Amherst common to a village improvement association, subject to the approval of the selectmen, as soon as such an association should be formed consisting of ten members.

The executive committee, to carry out the object of the new society in respect to the common, at a meeting two weeks later in April submitted plans for plowing the common, planting it with potatoes, laying out roads and walks, and improving the grounds in front of the church.

In spite of the adoption of these good plans but little was accomplished the first year on account of drouth and lack of funds.

But the next year, potatoes were raised and marketed, and on September 11th the society held a field day. They graded the common, straightening its borders, and under the leadership of Mr. Morell laid out the road from the church to his house as it now is, eliminating an awkward crook in it.

Later on, the town defined the borders of the common, and formally turned the care of it over to the duly constituted Village Improvement Association.

The next year the north part of the common was graded and seeded down to grass. The following year the society purchased and erected three street lights.³

It is of fairly recent years that the grass has not been allowed to grow tall. I think I can remember when hay was cut and rolled into cocks.

We do not know when the earliest trees were set out, but this society added to the original number about forty years ago.⁴

When the town water was brought to South Amherst, the watering tub was put in place.

There are no records available which tell when the first houses were built around the green.

There seems no doubt that the Dickinson house, which stands between Shay Street and Pomeroy Lane, is one of the oldest now standing. We do know that from his birth in 1785 to his death in 1870, it was the home of Lieut. Enos Dickinson. Perhaps his

father built it. On the old map made thirteen years before his birth, a house stands on what seems to be that site.

Lieut. Dickinson had no children and in late years gave of his income liberally to benevolent and charitable objects. He gave generously to Amherst Academy, Amherst College, and Mount Holyoke Seminary, and furnished funds for the Nineveh Galley in Amherst College. He also gave a scholarship which bears his name, and, of more interest to South Amherst, he left a fund to the church with which when the need arose, the present parsonage was purchased.

He built the brick house sometime before 1825. It seems probable that the post office which was established here in 1841 was first housed in this building, for Hiram Allen, who was the first postmaster, lived in it.

We read that Waitstill Dickinson opened the store in the brick house in 1842. Two years later he was made postmaster, which office he held for five years, and after a lapse of sixteen years was again appointed and served for nearly twenty years.

In the interim, the post office moved to accommodate its caretaker, at one time being in its present home, at another in the Deacon Reed house, and at another in what is now the parsonage.

It is thought the scales were put in about the time the store was opened. I remember when a grass plot just east was the home of one ailanthus tree.

The house just west of the parsonage is thought to be the next oldest.

Rev. James Merrick, who was pastor from 1849 to 1863, lived in and owned this house. It was then old and to make it warmer, new lath and plaster were put on inside the original walls. The deep window sills give evidence of this unusual method of securing a warmer house.

A foundation stone of the house beside the church, long known as the Deacon Reed house, bears the date 1806, which seems to settle the time of its erection. We do not know when Thomas Reed came into the house, but in 1839 he was chosen an officer in the South Amherst Lyceum and it is safe to say he lived there half a century or even more.

Just north of this library an empty cellar hole, around which sheltering bushes and trees have grown, bears mute testimony to the tragedy which destroyed another of the old houses.

This was occupied for many years by Oren Williams and later by J.F. Morell, whose widow and children were living in it at the time it was burned.

What is now the parsonage was bought for that purpose by the church in 1881 when Rev. Mr. C.S. Walker was called to be the pastor. The funds left by

Lieut. Enos Dickinson made it possible for the church to do this.⁵

About thirty years ago the house was turned slightly in its position, the old front moved away, and the present new one built by Mr. F.L. Pomeroy.

It is interesting to know that the Rev. Mr. Geo. Lyman who was pastor from 1869 to 1873 owned this house and made improvements then needed in the ell.

The house north of the school house was built by Hiram Allen, the first postmaster. We know that while he lived in the brick house he built this one, to which he moved, remaining until he died.

The house south of the school house was built much later, but sometime before the Civil War.

After making use of various other expedients in caring for its paupers, in 1838 Amherst instructed its selectmen to buy a suitable farm for a home for its poor.⁶

The farm selected lies east and northeast of the north end of South Amherst common. Corner of Station Rd. & S.E. St.⁷

This was known as the Poor Farm for a little over seventy-five years. The house has undergone many changes.

First a new east wing was built, then the whole front was moved away. A new front and north wing were added to the new east wing, but on January 1, 1882 the house, barn, and other buildings were burned, having been set afire by one of the inmates.

After this the present buildings were erected and used until 1915 when Amherst discontinued the maintenance of a town farm.

A large well south of the road crossing the common was dug to be of use in case of fire. Later its water was piped to the town farm.

Another well near the corner of Mr. H. Barton's lot on Pomeroy Lane furnished the rye distillery which stood there, the coolness necessary to condense the steam which rose from the distillery.

The first school houses in the town were erected in 1764. At that time there were four districts, north, south, east, middle, and west middle.

Where the south school house stood is a matter for conjecture but it is known that before the present location was decided upon, there was a schoolhouse at the foot of the hill south of the church.

It was something more than one hundred years ago that a two-story school building was erected on the present site. It was of brick and over sixty years ago the top story was removed, leaving a small school room, having an entry or hall in front, with one outside door.

Lawyer J.C. Hammond in a paper read on Old Home Day Aug. 17, 1921 said that the upper story was used for a select school in winter, taught by some undergraduate from the college.

The History of Amherst states that a meeting was held September 20, 1839 at the hall of the schoolhouse in South Amherst for the purpose of forming a society for mutual improvement. This was called the South Amherst Lyceum.

With the abolishing of the small districts, came the present tworoom structure.

The schoolhouse came to this section many years before a meeting house.

The First Church in Amherst was established in 1735 and the Second or East Street Church in 1782. The early settlers and the next generation attended one of these churches. Jonathan Bridgman, who kept the Bridgman Tavern on the Bay Road, drove with his family the five or six miles to the First Church every Sunday.

In 1824 there were so many people here that it was thought advisable to organize a church. Until the building now standing was erected the church met in a cabinet shop that stood between the present church building and the Deacon Reed house, or in the upper story of the schoolhouse.

George Nutting and Philip Goss received the contract for erecting the building at a cost of \$3,300, the hewn stone for the foundation to be furnished.

In November 3, 1825, the dedication of the church building took place. It is interesting to know that a committee was appointed to build a fence around it.

In 1844 the building was remodelled, the audience room being raised to the level of the original galleries.

Five years later, blinds were put on and horse sheds built.

Various changes were made within, as years passed, the most important being in 1895 when extensive repairs and alterations were made, including putting in the memorial windows.⁸

The History of Amherst tells us that in 1793 a library association was formed and that the books were kept most of the time in a case six feet high and four or five feet wide in the home of Deacon David Moody in South Amherst. Why the books were not kept in the center of the town, no voice from the past can tell us. Neither do we know where Deacon David Moody lived.

We also read that a library was instituted in South Amherst in 1840 by the Anti-slavery Society.

From these items, we see that the spirit which reached out for greater educational opportunities and brought about this building is not a stranger to this community, but for more than a century has looked

forward to and hoped for this day.

I wish to make grateful acknowledgment to Mr. Frank Pomeroy for much of the material used in this paper.

At my request for help, he graciously plunged the bucket of thought seventy-five years deep into the well of memory, and drew up a satisfying draught for my fact-thirsty spirit. I am sure you all are as grateful to him as I am, for these glimpses into the past toward which we, too, are rapidly moving.

Mrs. Mary Atkins Miller (C.W.)

and

Mr. W.H. Atkins.

Read by Mr. Atkins.

Oct. 10, 1930

Footnotes by the editor

1. The Munson Memorial Library.
2. Parnell Munson — lived on the knoll, Shays St. J.F. Morell, East of the cross road of the Common. C.S. Walker, also pastor of the So. Church.
3. Gas lights - tended by several villagers
4. 1890
5. Became part of the residence, north corner of Potwine and Middle Street.
6. Sold by the town in 1914.
7. Depot Rd. now Station Rd., (in 19th century, Logtown Road.)
8. Removed in restoration of church in late 1940's.



Charlotte Miller McChesney and ringbearer son at garden wedding of Marjorie Atkins to F. Irvine Elliott, 6/22/41.

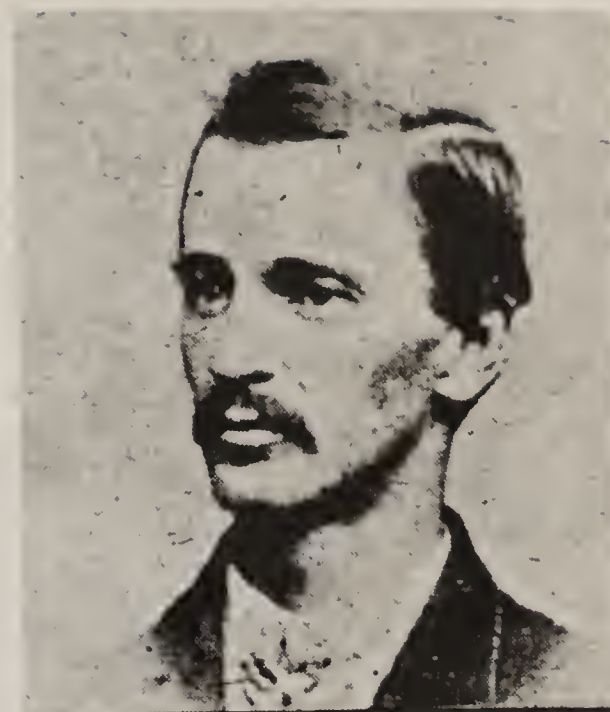
A. B. HOWARD'S

Strawberry of the Future

"Premier," Developed in 1906 Still Popular in 1960

MARJORIE ATKINS ELLIOTT

"New England Homestead" Nov. 12, 1960



A. B. HOWARD
1838-1907

THE strawberry season is an anniversary of personal significance to Everett Howard of Belchertown and his sister, Naomi Howard Atkins, of Amherst, Massachusetts. One of the most popular strawberries on the market today was originated in 1906 by their father, Arthur B. Howard. Ironically, the financial legacy he hoped to leave his children was directed into other hands, but the honor of having developed the "Premier," or "Howard 17" as it is also known, remains.

Other strawberries have been introduced in the past 54 years but the Howard 17 still accounts for 35% of the commercial crop in the state of Michigan¹, is listed at the top of berries preferred in New York State², preferred by commercial growers questioned in Wis.³ and Massachusetts⁴ and described as one of the two most widely grown berries today in Indiana⁵. More remarkable, virus free foundation stock of Howard 17 (Premier) has been released to the nursery trade by the United States Department of Agriculture⁶. This berry was developed, not by a team of experts at an experiment station but by a creative fruit grower in Belchertown, Massachusetts. He worked his small farm of 35 acres for a living, taking what time he could spare to develop "the strawberry of the future." His expectations have been realized; 40 years of testing and retesting resulted in a berry still praised for its vigor and longevity.

Much has been written about the berry; little about the man. Born in 1838 on Three Rivers Road, Belchertown, Arthur early showed his preference for plants, taking advantage of an opportunity to study horticulture at Putney, Vermont, with the "Perfectionists," a group which later formed the famous Oneida Community in New York State. He returned to Belchertown, married Minnie Chandler; two children were born of their marriage, Naomi (Mrs. W. H. Atkins) and Everett. Surviving his wife, Mr. Howard died Dec. 20, 1907, when he was 69 years old.

Through the years Arthur felt an irresistible urge to work with plants and to develop new varieties. When only fifteen he persuaded his father to let him set out a bed of strawberries for commercial use; to the astonishment of his elders he made a success of it. His experiments in plant breeding resulted in the Lilliput zinnia, the Bay State tomato, and most notably in the lovely Howard Star Petunia, popular today.

His knowledge and skill in plant breeding were watched with interest by other plant breeders. Liberty Hyde Bailey was a frequent correspondent and consulted him in the compilation of his "Cyclopedia of American Horticulture." Ephraim Bull, the originator of the Concord grape, was a close friend and correspondent, also. Mr. Bull told Howard, according to his son Everett, that a grape he had bred was stolen from him and named Moore's Early

but he could not prove it. (An epitaph given to Mr. Bull: "Others reaped where I sowed" might also have been inscribed on A. B. Howard's stone for the security he hoped he was leaving his family was taken by the unscrupulous behavior of a few persons.)

A. B. Howard was always pinched for funds for research. On one occasion he remarked vehemently to his daughter, as he read of a \$10,000 governmental grant to his contemporary Luther Burbank, "If only I had \$1,000. I would show the world what I could do!"

The rocky New England farm had to be cleared. From the southerly slope which became the strawberry bed were hauled 500 two horse loads of stone, according to the son Everett. Here was set out an acre of strawberries, $\frac{3}{4}$ for profit, $\frac{1}{4}$ for "fun," as he termed it.

One of his best friends lived in nearby Amherst, Professor S. T. Maynard, first head of the department of horticulture at the Mass. Agriculture College. According to Mrs. Atkins, "Father would rush in from the field, hitch up the horse and go to Amherst to see Prof. Maynard

at the Durfee planthouse with some report or problem, or Prof. Maynard would drive unexpectedly into the yard, always saying that he was in a hurry, which he would soon forget as he and father went out to look over the experimental fields." Other good friends were Mr. L. W. Goodell of Pansy Park, a seed grower, and Editor Morehouse, of the *Amherst Record* in whom he found a kindred inquisitive mind.

Sensitive, often times moody, Mr. Howard was a gifted man, who could have put his talents in writing, speaking, or music to greater use if he had had the time. He was invited at one time by Editor Phelps of the *New England Homestead* to become co-owner of the paper, but he lacked the necessary \$5,000 capital. Of him the editor wrote in the issue of April 11, 1895, "Mr. A. B. Howard of Belchertown, not content with being the cordial admirer of the *Homestead*, its indefatigable agent and a frequent and valued contributor to its columns, has placed us under renewed obligation to him by sending us a magnificent collection of flowers—pansies, verbenas, heliotropes, roses, geraniums, petunias, etc., all from his own hot houses. We never saw choicer or more elegant petunias and pansies than some in the collection."

For 40 years he worked alone, except for the help of his son, trying out 3,000 seedlings from which they produced 100 varieties of promise. The Howard 17 fruited for the first time in 1906—the best of 800 new seedlings fruiting that year. For the "strawberry of the future" which he hoped this would be, he planned the name "Howard's Ideal." Unfortunately he died just before Christmas 1907 before he could know if the seedling would fulfill its early token of excellence.

Three hundred seedlings were sent

out to experiment stations and nurserymen in the eastern section of the United States and Canada. Some of the seedlings sent to the man who tested for the Illinois State Experiment station were given by him to his son, a nurseryman, who two years later sold 50 plants of a new seedling variety to R. M. Kellogg Co. This was introduced by Kellogg in 1915 as "Premier" and was sensationally successful, creating a demand for several million plants the next year! About the same thing happened to the Howard 17 in Connecticut.

Thus, before reports could return to Everett on the adaptability of the Howard 17 to various soils and climates the potential value of his father's berry had been lost; Everett could not compete with the large growers who were growing the Howard berry on a prodigious scale in their nurseries.

The money value of the berry was thus lost to the Howards. It appeared that the honor of being recognized as its originator would be lost also.

So for twenty years Everett persisted in presenting the facts of the case, that the "Howard 17" and the "Premier" were identical, and in

1929 the American Pomological Society declared this to be so, inscribing on the famed Marshall Wilder medal

"To A. B. Howard and Son
Premier or Howard 17
Most Widely Grown of All Strawberries, 1929"

Today Everett in his 80's lives in retirement with his wife on the fruit farm where he worked with his father. His son, Charles, lives nearby.

In Amherst Mrs. W. H. Atkins nears her eightieth birthday, tends her Howard Star Petunias in loving memory and looks out on the orchards established by her husband and two sons, Howard and William. Surely one of their sons will continue in the tradition of fruit growing!

The financial legacy did not materialize for the Howards but this remains—millions of Americans have enjoyed and will enjoy a better strawberry because of the perseverance of a Belchertown man in bringing to fulfillment his "strawberry of the future."

1. Bell, Harry, American Fruit Grower, April, 1958.

2. Slater, George, Rural New Yorker, March 15, 1958.

PARNELL MUNSON: THE MAN AND HIS FRIENDS

Amherst Record

by Clara B. Dwight

Oct. 1966

Parnell Munson probably came to Amherst in the 1870's or 80's. We are told that the reason he came may have been because his wife wanted to return to her old home town. No wonder! There is no more beautiful place anywhere than South Amherst. When he saw the wide panorama and the beautiful site on which he eventually built his house he visualized attractive possibilities and gracious living. That certainly came to pass.

Munson loved horses. He must have a suitable barn. Down on the land beyond what is now Mechanics St. was a small factory owned by A.J. Robinson, the grandfather of Win and Cliff Shumway. We are told that Munson bought it and moved it to its present position adjacent to the house, and added to it so that there would be space for box-stalls and carriages. (Incidentally it later housed other fine horses, those of the Gages.) On the top of the barn is a fine weather vane — a dragon with a horse's head.

Across the road (Shays St.) was the pasture land, a beautiful slope extending to Plum Brook.

Water was needed in the house and barn, of course. Mr. Munson had a pond made down the hill in the pasture where there are everflowing springs. The excavating was done by George Dwight and Henry Pitcher, and the oxen. This pasture now belongs to Roy Blair.

A windmill was erected to pump water to the house and barn. Gas was manufactured on the place for lighting and use in the kitchen.

Before Mr. Munson's time, on land which he later bought and where the Lintons now live, there was a tavern. On the top floor was a dance hall, later made into apartments. There one of our most beloved residents, Mary Pomeroy, was born. That building burned, but the barn was left throughout Munson's time and into the Linton's time. It is incorporated into their fine residence. Old lilac bushes still grow beside the drive.

It doesn't seem amiss here to write of the oxen, that had so much to do with all these projects, the building, making the pond, and laying the stone walls.

And now to Mr. and Mrs. Munson themselves. Mr. Munson was tall and handsome, and very genial. He usually wore a wide felt hat, western style. Mrs. Munson was also handsome and very dignified. An important member of the household was Mary Jordan, companion, cook, and all-around helper.

In a front room we remember a green plush piano. Mrs. Munson must have liked plush and velvet. She gave a red plush piano to an old friend in Amherst, and often dressed in brocaded velvet. She must have seemed truly regal, so attired and descending the fine staircase in the hall.

The Munsons often sat on the front porch where they could drink in the view, unobstructed then. Over across the valley on West St. they could see the home of their friend Jeff Thurston, now become one of the most important places in town, housing as it does the offices of the new Hampshire College.

Mr. Munson soon made friends and entered into town affairs. He was selectman for a time. Carl Dickinson reminds us of a Washington's Birthday party at the church, in which Mr. and Mrs. Munson took the parts of George and Martha Washington. No two people could have portrayed them more elegantly.

Mrs. Munson formed the "Little Old Folks Band". Most of the small children and teenagers of South Amherst belonged. She gave each of us a badge that she made out of blue ribbon and on which she had painted in letters of gold "L.O.F.B." We still have ours.

Mr. Munson frequently drove to Amherst with his spanking team of horses. Let's imagine his journey. He passed the home of his brother-in-law, Erastus Coy.

When passing Zan Field's, he may have seen old Dr. Way just starting out with his funny little cart, to peddle his essences. Then on past the houses of the Harkness girls. He may have asked the price of potatoes from Mr. Linehan, farmer, farther on.

Then on to Mill Valley. He saw the fine gambrel roofed houses and picket fences of Flavell Gaylord and Ed. Clark.

The gristmill was very busy, run by John Holley, the dusty miller. Mr. Munson may have bought grain, and watched the millstones and noisy belts.

Then across the little bridge (It is still there) back of the mill, looking up the river to where the water was flowing over the dam to furnish power for the gristmill, the sawmill and Asabel Dwight's pump shop.

Then on uptown, stopping to purchase a bag of peanuts at the Musante's. He then went down Main St. leaving Mrs. Munson at the millinery rooms of Hannah and Sarah Waite. Mrs. Munson always wore a individual style of hat.

He finally came to a halt at Sisson's Hotel next to the Central Vermont tracks. He tied his high-spirited horses to the post, as a freight train might rumble through at any time.

He went into the hotel. Now, let's leave him for a while with his intimate friend "Taber" Sisson, and their horse talk, fun and toddy.

Since Mr. Munson's time, the house has been owned by fine families, — Judge Howland, St. John Smith, Gage, Bastow.

As to the Munson Memorial Building, it speaks for itself. It was given by Mrs. Munson in memory of her husband. It is located on what was once the property of our best of friends, the Morells. Later it was bought by William Atkins, who so generously gave the site for the building.

The building is attractive and especially so, because it is located next to the fine old church and opposite the unspoiled common.

There is a courtyard where Robert Francis, Amherst poet, who lived near, formerly had an attractive herb garden.

It is used continuously, not only as a library, but in many other ways. The librarians, the late Helen Stedman and Anna Thompson have done good service, as also the caretakers, the late Herb Dwight, Henry Wentworth, and Win Shumway.

Mr. Munson's portrait hangs on the library wall. . . .



Looking east down Main Street, Amherst. (E.P.R.)



Amherst College Hall, 1907 (E.P.R.)

Mrs. Musante's, at entrance to Harvey's Market, about 1909. Note bicycle against tree, and bicyclist approaching. (Mrs. Eliz. Parsons Robinson)

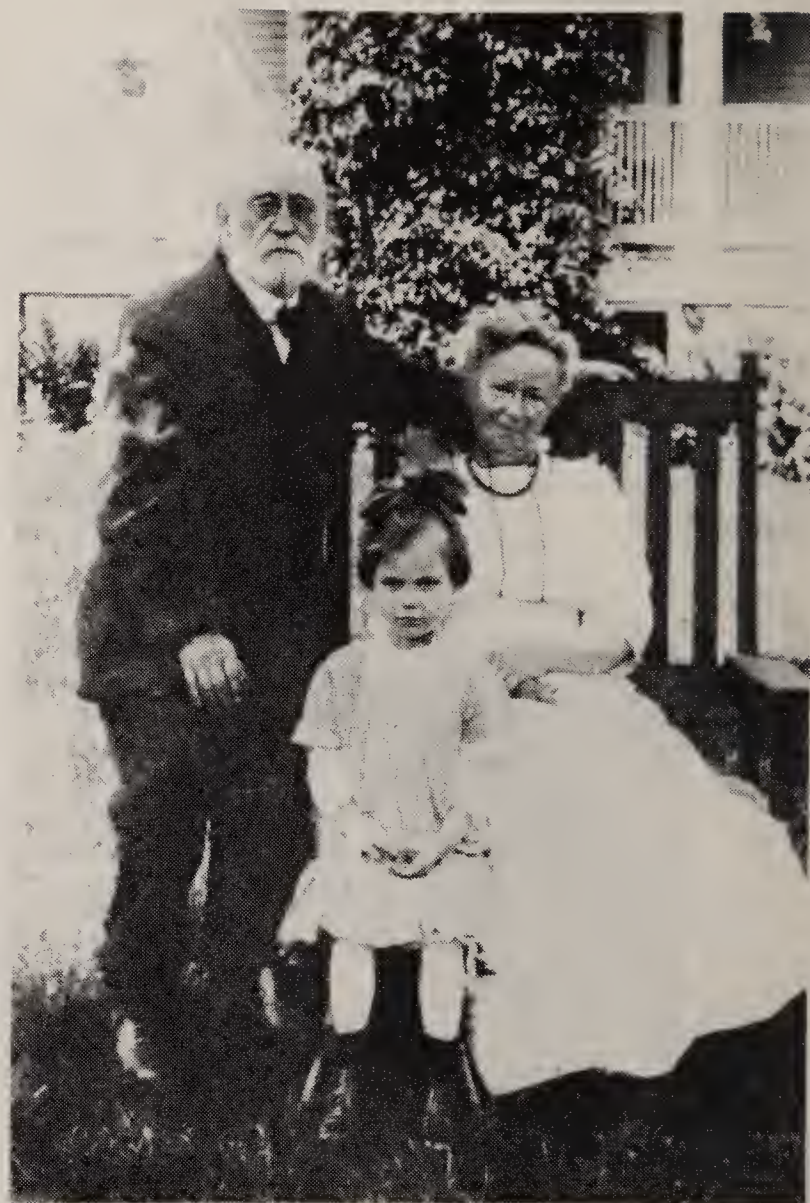


Mrs. Musante, Peanuts, Fruit and Candy, Amherst, Mass

Two pages from Alice M. Walker's book *Through Turkey Pass to Amherst and Beyond*, Pub. 1903. (Lyman Thomson)

South Amherst.

The West Street of South Amherst, along which the trolley road passes, is bordered by a succession of fertile farms, abodes of thrift, intelligence and enterprise. The first homestead on the left has been the lifelong residence of its owner, Emery T. Darling, and was the home of his father and grandfather. Parts of the house were built more than a hundred years ago. Upon the right we see one of the oldest houses in the neighborhood, the home of Walter Hayward. The projecting upper story of this building proves it to belong to one of the most antique types of architecture in New England. Amherst has long been noted for its handsome elms, but none more stately and beautiful can be seen in the valley than the magnificent tree in front of the homestead of Thomas J. Thurston, recently sold to Charles Stiles. Here in order to avoid destroying this ancient landmark, the surveyor located the electric road between the tree and the house, thus saving to the owner one of the chief ornaments of his estate. This farm was the birthplace of Mr. Thurston's paternal grandmother. The tree which was planted by a member of the family in the early part of the last century has grown to be fifteen feet in circumference with branches spreading a hundred feet. From beneath this tree by day we can see the trolley track along its crooked course far up the mountain side and at night we spy the gleaming eye of the car as it emerges from the rocky cut, and may watch it as like an erratic firefly it appears and disappears among the trees, and finally rushes past before we know that it is upon us. From the Thurston farm across an expanse of fertile meadows lies the village of South Amherst, the spire of its church rising white against the Mount Lincoln foothills. This section of the town has been the home of many distinguished men and women. John C. Hammond of Northampton, and the Bridgman family, well known as writers, teachers and journalists, were born in South Amherst and received their early education in its schools. The first public library in town was kept at Deacon David Moody's, and the first anti-slavery society was organized in the schoolhouse on the Green. From South Amherst have come selectmen, representatives, and county commissioners. The names Merrick, Dickinson, Bridgman, Dana, Johnson, and Read are prominent among those who organized and have supported the Congregational church. At the south end of the town lives Mrs. Henry Bishop, Amherst's one real Daughter of the American Revolution. Several of the old houses on West Street have passed into the hands of strangers. The large and fertile farms of James E. and Allen P. Merrick, who not many years ago were influential citizens and filled many public offices, have descended to their sons, who occupy the old homesteads. But few other representatives of the early settlers remain.....



1911 Picture — courtesy of Miss Alice W. Walker

A picture of Charles S. Walker, one of the petitioners in 1926 for a history of Amherst, and his wife, Alice Morehouse Walker, sister of C.F. Morehouse, co-editor of the 1896 *History of Amherst*. Mrs. Walker was author of several readable, slim books on early Amherst — *Historic Homes of Amherst* and *Through Turkey Pass to Amherst and Beyond* are two. The child seated with them is their granddaughter, Alice W. Walker. From her we learn today (1973), "My grandmother, Alice M., and grandfather, the Rev. Charles S. Walker, lived in the parsonage in South Amherst in the 1870's and '80's while he was pastor in the South Church. In 1886 they moved to the Agricultural College Campus. When he left the College he bought the house now numbered 166 Lincoln Ave. They moved into the Amherst House in 1920 . . . I didn't grow up in Amherst but my father Claude F. Walker did, and my fondness for the area and the people has grown steadily with the years."

See page 69 for illustration.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1900.

PREMIUMS AWARDED

THE HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S
FAIR, SEPT. 25 AND 26.

CLASS 1—TOWN TEAMS.

M Smith Hadley, 1st.

CLASS 2—FANCY CATTLE.

Geo E Smith, 1st and 2nd.

CLASS 3—WORKING OXEN.

H M Smith 1st and 2nd.

CLASS 4—STEERS.

E W Smith 1st; John A Page 2nd; 2 year old
deer, C L Randall 1st; 1 pr. Holstein, 18 mos.
L Randall 1st.

CLASS 5—MILCH COWS.

Jerseys, H W Owen 1st, 2nd and 3rd; native
or grade, F S Cooley 1st; Geo L Henry 2nd;
H F Kellogg 3rd.

CLASS 6—HERDS OF MILCH COWS.

Grade, Geo S Henry 1st; F S Cooley 2nd;
Geo Atkins 3rd; pure bred, H W Owen 1st.

CLASS 7—HEIFERS.

24 mos—Grade Jersey B F Kellogg 1st; pure
bred two year old Jersey H W Owen 1st and
2nd; pure bred 1 yr old Jersey H W Owen 1st;
pure bred 1 yr old Guernsey, Oliver Cowles 1st.

CLASS 8—BULLS.

Jersey, H W Owen 1st; Durham, Chas Green
1st.

CLASS 9—CALVES.

Heifers—grade Jersey, H W Owen 1st; grade
Holstein, F E Loomis 1st; C L Randall 2nd;
pure bred Jerseys, H W Owen 1st and 2nd;
grade Jersey, Joseph Kellogg 2nd. Bulls—
pure bred, F E Loomis 1st; grade, John D
Tillson 1st.

CLASS 9 1-2—THOROUGHbred BREEDING HERD.

H W Owen 1st.

CLASS 10—SWINE.

Pure bred boars, F O Williams 1st; sow with
pigs less than 7 weeks old, F O Williams 1st;
litter of weaned pigs, Geo L Henry 1st; F E
Jacque 2nd; F O Williams 3rd; litter of shoats,
Wm D Crocker 1st; belted swine, A M Lyman
1st.

CLASS 11—SHEEP.

Pure bred buck, Asa Adams 1st; L. W. West
& Son 2nd; grade buck, L W West & Son 1st;
Chas Green 2nd; flocks of sheep, L W West &
Son 1st; Asa Adams 2nd; Chas Green 3rd;
lambs, L W West & Son 1st; Chas Green 2nd.

CLASS 12—POULTRY.

S C W Leghorns, W C W Polish, Chas W
Freeman 1st; white Muscovy ducks, collection
Muscovy ducks, Ayresbury ducks, Chas W
Freeman 1st; geese—Emaden, brown China,
African, (old) African (young), Chas W
Freeman 1st; wild geese (old), Chas W
Freeman 2nd; white Wyandotte chicks, W
W Ward 1st; white Plymouth Rock chicks,
Geo G Graves 1st & 2d; white Plymouth Rock
fowls, Geo G Graves 2nd; S P Hamburg fowls,
John Simison 1st; G P Hamburgs, white
Cochin bantam fowls, John Simison 2nd;
white leghorn chicks, C C Lewis 1st; barred
Plymouth Rock fowls, and chicks, G H Cad-
well 1st; black Langshan fowls and chicks,
H M Thomson 1st; black Langshan fowls and
chicks, S C Rhode Island fowls, 2nd; golden
Seabright bantam fowls and chicks, S C Rhode
Island red chicks, H M Thomson 1st and 2nd;
rose comb black chicks, H M Thomson 1st;
buff Cochin fowls 2nd and chicks 1st, Jas B Bran-
nan; mottled Ancora chicks and fowls,
Jas B Brannan 1st and 2nd; rose comb white
Leghorn fowls, silver Wyandotte chicks F S
Cooley 2nd; barred Plym. Rock fowls, A M

Lyman 2nd; Brahma light fowls, A M Lyman
1st; black Minorca chicks, Wm D Crocker 1st;
black Leghorn chicks, Wm D Crocker 2nd;
S C black Minorca fowls 1st, and chicks 2nd
J B Paige; white Wyandotte chicks, J B
Paige 2nd; black Leghorn bantams, Eugene
Wright 2nd; rabbits, Willie Deto 3rd; W C
black Polish fowls, partridge Cochins, Pekin
ducks, Pekin ducklings, Horace A Thayer, 1st,
W C black Polish chicks, S C brown Leghorns,
2nd; ducks, Chas Struble 3rd; buff Plymouth
Rock, A E Ray 1st; white Langshan chicks, A
E Ray 1st; ducks, Clifton A Bishop 2nd;
Plymouth Rock fowls and chicks, C H Egles-
ton 2nd; Pit game chicks, C H Egleson 3rd;
red pile Pit game, D L Viara 3rd; white Wy-
andottes, Geo C Grey 2nd; pet rats, Mrs J East-
man 3rd; white Minorca, H B Thayer 1st;
rabbits, Bennie Page 3rd; rose comb brown
Leghorns, J W Bliss 1st and 2nd; black
breasted red game bantams, J W Bliss 2nd;
white Leghorn fowls, M B Kingman 2nd;
white Wyandotte fowls, W P Brooks 1st;
barred Plym. Rock chicks, W P Brooks 2nd;
1 coop rose comb R I red fowls, single rose
comb R I reds, fowls and chicks, Valley Farm
1st and 2nd; 1 coop single comb R I reds fowls,
1 coop single comb R I red chicks, white Rocks,
buff Wyandotte fowls, Valley Farm 1st; light
Brahmas, E M Dickinson 1st; Toulouse geese,
Oliver Cowles 1st; Pekin ducks Oliver Cowles
2nd; black red game fowls, G Henry Clark 1st;
black red game chicks, G Henry Clark 1st and
2nd; red pile game fowls, G Henry Clark 2nd;
red pile game chicks, G Henry Clark 1st and
2nd; black Sumatra game fowls, G Henry
Clark 1st and 2nd; black Sumatra chicks,
bronze turkeys golden Wyandotte chicks,
G Henry Clark 1st; Mongolian pheasants, G
Henry Clark 2nd,

CLASS 13—AGRICULTURAL AND FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Weeder, F E Loomis 1st; Acme harrow, John
C Dillon 1st; pneumatic butter separator, F S
Crossman 1st.

CLASS 13 1-2—OLD ARTICLES.

Ex. old articles, A M Lyman; 2 old lamps, 1
old pewter platter, Mrs Fannie M Pierce; Na-
vajo blanket, Miss Olive N Leshner; feather
fan, Mrs E J Aldrich; table cloth (127 years
old), Mrs L W Boutwell; col. of antiques,
Mrs L W West; antique chair, Mrs H D Dana.

CLASS 14—MECHANIC ARTS.

Three gun-boats, trolley line 3 cars, train
steam cars, Fred Chapin 1st; ship, A W Chase
2nd; ship, Ned Bosworth 3rd.

CLASS 15—MERCANTILE GOODS.

Best display Grange store 1st, J F Paige 2nd;
E M Bolles 3rd.

CLASS 16—DOMESTIC AND OTHER MANU- FACTURES.

2 Patchwork puffs, crocheted pockets, Flora
B Farrar; outline work, Frances Chapin; bed-
quilt, Mrs John Wrigley, silk bedquilt, Bar-
berina Page; sofa pillow, Bessie Baker; sofa
pillow, Mrs Arthur Thresher; bedquilt, Mrs
L N Fleming; bedquilts, knit rug, Mrs Fannie M
Pierce; silk crazy quilt, Mrs M S Wells; yacht,
Kilvert O Madden; knit rag carpet, Mrs W W
Moon; bedquilt, Mrs C C Moore; couch cover,
Jennie M Allen; 1 pr mittens, Mattie Madden;
silk quilt, Mrs F L Nims; bedquilt, Mrs Ware;
bedquilt, Mrs C L Nims; a Dinah doll, Blanch
May Hawley; braided rug, Mrs William Smith.

CLASS 17—FANCY ARTICLES.

Sofa pillow, Mexican drawn work, Mabel K
Farrar; 2 sofa pillows, Flora B Farrar; sofa
pillow, Mrs John Wrigley; 3 Honiton lace

dollies, 5 dollies, center piece red rose, center
piece pink rose, center piece oak leaf, straw-
berry design center pieces, 2 sofa pillows, Mrs
F E Lay; fancy apron, embroidered apron,
Mrs S D Train; hand made lace, fancy hand-
kerchief, table mat, Hazel Train; fancy pin-
cushion, Mrs E L Brown; set dollies, 3 fancy
handkerchiefs, Miss Mina King; 3 dollies, 1
handkerchief, sofa pillow, Mrs C J King; col-
or mats, Mrs Chas Metcalf; 4 patterns in lace,
pincushion, headrest, 4 tidies, Mrs Fannie M
Pierce; 2 crocheted shawls, crocheted lace
shawl, Mrs M S Wells; acorn work, Mrs E J
Aldrich; sofa pillow, Mrs L L Owen; tray
cloth, Ethel Gilbert; cushion cover, afghan,
Mrs C C Moore; 3 pin cushions, 2 dollies, Mrs.
S W Boutwell; 2 sofa pillows, handkerchief,
Mrs F L Nims; 2 sofa pillows, Mrs C L Nims;
knit silk lace mat and afghan, A R Burghardt;
sofa pillow, tidies, dollies, Mrs Chas Eastman;
4 Battenburg dollies, 3 crocheted tidies, Mrs
Myron Hinekley; sofa pillow, crochet horn,
Mrs William Taylor; 8 dollies, 2 tidies, Mrs B
Page; bolero, socks, handkerchief, Mrs Alfred
Morehouse, Battenburg work, embroideries
col. white waist, J C West; Battenburg center-
piece, Bulgarian, center piece, Harriet Brig-
ham; Battenburg center-piece, Mrs H D Dana;
sofa pillow, Lillie Conley; 2 picture frames,
Susie Page; shawl, Hulda Page; tissue paper
work, Mrs Chas Metcalf.

CLASS 18—FINE ARTS.

Poppies, tulips, Mrs F E Lay; hand painted
china, A L Greene; 4 water colors, Elizabeth
L Fletcher; 1 oil painting 3 water colors, An-
nie J Lentell; landscape, Mrs C F Morehouse.

CLASS 19—BREAD AND BUTTER.

Wheat bread, Mrs C L Comins 1st, Mrs H M
Thompson 2nd; rye bread, Mrs C L Comins 1st
and Naomi Howard 2nd; graham, Mrs C L
Comins 1st, Mrs T L Paige 2nd; rye and Indian,
Mrs C N Baker 1st, Mrs C L Comins 2nd; best
10 lbs. butter, A M Lyman 1st.

CLASS 20—CANNED FRUITS, JELLY, PICK- LES, MAPLE SYRUP, SUGAR, HONEY.

Canned fruits, Naomi Howard 1st, Mrs H M
Thomson 2nd, and Mrs C L Comins 3rd; dried
apples, Mrs John Wrigley gratuity; maple
syrup, Ashley Randall 1st, Mrs C L Comins
2nd; maple sugar, Ashley Randall 1st; jelly,
Mrs C F Morehouse 1st; col. pickles, Mrs T L
Paige 1st; honey, Mrs T L Paige 1st; jelly,
Mrs T L Paige 2nd.

CLASS 21.—FRUIT.

Display of fruit, A B Howard 1st; best as-
sorted basket, A B Howard 1st.

CLASS 22—FRUIT GROWN BY EXHIBITOR.

Col. of apples, H S Dickinson, 1st, H D Dana
2nd and A B Howard 3rd; col. of pears, A B
Howard 1st; col. of apples, G H Atkins 4th;
col. of grapes, peaches and plums, A B How-
ard 1st, quinces, plums and peaches 2nd;
col. cranberries, John A Paige 1st and A Gates
2nd; Plate Baldwins and Greenings, H D
Dana 1st; plate R'b'y Russets, plate King ap-
ples, H D Dana 1st; plate Gravenstein, G H
Atkins 1st; Hub. Nonesuch, H D Dana 1st.

CLASS 23—VEGETABLES GROWN BY THE EXHIBITOR.

Col. of veg., S L Parker 1st, W P Brooks 2nd,
and C L Comins 3rd; ex. potatoes, C L Comins
1st, S L Parker 2nd; peek of potatoes, C L
Comins 1st; ex. of onions, carrots, beets, ruta-
baga, S L Parker 1st; ex. of carrots, F O
Williams 2nd; beets (blood turnip), L I
Thompson 2nd; ex. of onions, J W Allen 2nd;
ex. pumpkins and beans, S L Parker 1st; ex.
of tomatoes, A B Howard 1st, S L Parker 2nd;
ex. of beans, Mrs John Wrigley 2nd; ex. of
celery, cabbages, S L Parker 1st; squashes, E J
Clark 2nd; cauliflower, E J Clark 1st; cel-
ery, H M Thomson 2nd; 1 cabbage, William L
Mirick 2nd; largest squash, A M Lyman 1st, S
L Parker 2nd; largest pumpkin, S L Parker
1st and A M Lyman 2nd.

CLASS 23 1-2—GRAINS GROWN BY THE EXHIBITOR.

Col. sweet corn, S L Parker 1st, C L Comins 2nd; col. Indian corn, W L Boutwell 1st and S L Parker 2nd; pop corn, C L Comins 1st, W N Walte 2nd; trace dent corn, S L Parker 1st; 12 rowed Flint corn, 8 rowed Flint corn, W L Boutwell 1sts; 12 rows Flint corn, trace dent corn, C L Comins 2nds; trace 8 rowed Flint corn, James Comins 2nd; best and largest trace corn, W L Boutwell 1st; ex. rye, C L Comins 1st, A Gates 2nd; ex. of oats, A Gates 1st, C L Comins 2nd.

SPECIAL CLASS—GRANGE AND FARMER CLUBS EXHIBITS.

Exhibit of Amherst Grange, 1st.

CLASS 24—FLOWERS.

Col. flowers, M B Kingman 1st, A B Howard 2nd and Mrs S W Boutwell 3rd; col. asters, S L Parker 1st, Mrs T L Paige 2nd; col. of pansies, R W Goodell 1st; col. of verbenas, A B Howard 1st and 2nd; col. dahlias, John C Dillon 1st; oleanders, Mrs A M Lyman 1st; Howard's New Star petunia, A B Howard 1st; col. of gladioli, Mrs S W Boutwell 1st; nasturtiums, Mrs T L Paige 1st, Jennie M Allen 2nd; Princess feather, Mrs L W West 1st; col. wild flowers, Mrs E J Aldrich 1st, Mrs S W Boutwell 2nd; best bouquet, Mrs S W Boutwell 1st, A B Howard 2nd.

CLASS 25.

Stallion roadster, Hollis C Graves 1st.



The Floral Novelty of 1902

A. B. HOWARD & SON
Belchertown, Massachusetts, U. S. A.

CLASS 29—DRAFT HORSES.

Pairs, F. A. Cadwell 1st, A. M. Lyman 2nd; singles, D. L. Viara 2nd.

CLASS 30.—CARRIAGE HORSES.

Best pair, Mayor J L Mather 1st, C W Robinson 2nd and J C Mornow 3rd; carriage horse, D F Shumway 1st, E F Cook 2nd, A M Lyman 3rd and M J Proulx 4th.

CLASS 31.—ROADSTERS.

Pair roadsters, Hollis Graves 1st, John McQuestion 2nd and D J Wright 3rd; single roadsters, A L Dyer 1st, Frary Brothers 2nd, E W Smith 3rd and D J Wright 4th.

CLASS 26—BREEDING MARES WITH SUCKING COLTS.

Breeding mare and colt, W D Murray 1st; French Coach standard, F S Cooley 1st; cross-bred, William L Mirick 2nd.

CLASS 27.—COLTS AND FILLIES.

3 yr. old stallion, W D Murray, 1st, N G Graff 2nd; 3 yr old colt, John D Tillson 1st and 2nd; 2 yr old colt, R M Guilford 1st, W D Murray 2nd, L N Fleming 3rd; yearling roadster, E W Smith 1st, W D Murray 2nd and H D Dana 3rd; 12 yr old draft, John D Tillson 1st; 1 yearling draft, E W Smith 1st, John D Tillson 2nd.

CLASS 28—FARM HORSES.

Best pair, A W Chase 1st, F G Shaw 2nd and C L Randall 1st.

An old newspaper account of the Hampshire Agricultural Soc. Fair Sept. 25, 26, 1901 with names of prize winners in the area. Among them, Mrs. C.F. Morehouse, 1st in landscape painting and jelly. George Atkins, father of Wm. H. Atkins, won 1st for a plate of Gravensteins, and 3rd for a herd of milch cows; A. B. Howard of Belchertown took honors with his display of fruits and flowers and first for his new petunia. His daughter, Naomi Howard, at age 20, placed 1st over the matrons of the county in canned fruits, and second in rye bread! Some years later she was to marry Wm. Atkins. Other familiar sounding names, with their own family histories, are Cook, Shumway, Cowles, Lyman, Page.



Farm wagon, possibly at a fair, bearing the Atkins Fruit Farm label and a display of pumpkins. Circa 1920
Amherst Record

A pupil remembers Cora Howlett, teacher in South Amherst 20 years

(This is education week, and as parents meet with teachers throughout Amherst to see how their children learn with television and other electronic equipment, a former pupil remembers how it was in "the big room" in South Amherst not very long ago. - Ed.)

by MARJORIE ATKINS ELLIOTT

Who remembers Cora Howlett, the teacher of the "big room" in South Amherst, 1914-1934? Her pupils and co-workers do, many of them still living in Amherst. She was unforgettable; even as children we knew she was extraordinary. (The saying about eyes in the back of a teacher's head must have originated in her room!) But we didn't realize that our Miss Howlett, the picture of calm propriety in long skirts, rimless glasses, and softly coiled hair was a pioneer teacher, ahead of her time in her teaching methods. She was, in the vernacular of today, "quite a gal."

She molded the ideas of many today as to what an education should be. Those still living in the Amherst area with a name of Brace, Barton, Atkins, Cowles, Matrishon, Lyman, Cook, Main, Kerr, Slaby, Allis, King for a few - and others who have moved away, the Schoonmakers, Alferis, Hawthornes, Smiths, Thayers, and Couches, would have their own incidents to tell of five years in her room. Miss Howlett didn't sing - she had to use a tuning fork to start our songs. She didn't dance, or act, but she saw to it, using her own funds if necessary, that each of us had a chance to do these things. She didn't design a dress but accomplished a greater wonder in teaching us how to match our seams in sewing hour. She couldn't have known much about woodwork, but through her the boy that did taught the next one, and so they built bird houses, and desks, benches and boats. Nor did she ever write a news article but she dared to lead us to write our own plays, and even to create one from a published juvenile story, and to produce it! Yes, she was "quite a gal."

A few years ago, her brother Ralph Howlett sent me a brief biography of his sister. The Howletts had moved to S. Amherst in 1893 when she was 13. She graduated from the old Amherst High School on Spring Street, and then taught in several small schools in outlying towns at very low salaries - at Windsor, West Pelham, and a corner of Williamsburg. Here a school superintendent, Mr. Pratt, recognized her talents and encouraged her to go to Westfield Normal School, for a year. Five years more of teaching followed, at better salaries, with a principalship of an 8 room school at East Longmeadow. (She could come home to South Amherst on weekends by the new trolley cars!) But the death of her mother in 1914, necessitated her running the home

for her father, so at a much smaller salary, she became the teacher of the one room in our village and filled this position until 1934. She died in 1937.

So she was well equipped to handle our motley group - boys and girls, many from homes whose folks still spoke the tongue of the old country - Scotch, Polish, Italian, English, German - we were not aware of anything unusual. School was work but I don't remember it as boring. (Of course, back then we had recesses.) It was creative. Every year we



MISS CORA HOWLETT

in the big room wrote an original play and produced it on the one foot high stage of the Sunday School room in the South Congregational Church. Any proceeds from this 10 and 15¢ admission went to buy some needed teaching or learning aid. From a letter of the late Mr. Howlett comes this recollection: "On one occasion a special effort was being made to get a phonograph and a good crowd turned out in the church vestry. Mr. Hardy, the school superintendent, came down for the event. Quite a sizeable sum was required as the phonograph was a new idea for the school. After the entertainment some one announced how much money had been received as admissions and it was not quite enough to buy the phonograph. The Mr. Hardy arose and made

a little speech and of course praised all and everyone. Then he concluded with something like this: 'We have all paid so much (perhaps 15¢) to get in; now let's all pay to get out!; the sum was raised!' I remember this Victrola well. The bigger boys used to carry it outdoors those lovely spring days and we had folk dancing there, and wound the Maypole with ribbons to its tunes.

On this Victrola we learned by heart such music as "In the Hall of the Mountain King" and "Anvil Chorus." Always ingenious, Miss Howlett found ways to make learning a game. She would select a non-music loving boy to be the one to run around the building while the record was playing. When he came in, he was to identify the record from whatever portion of the theme was playing! Everyone wanted to be "it."

She had no favorites; in fact the children that had the most in worldly advantages were not usually given the stellar roles in the plays. The clumsy boy would find he was designated to be the hero, the shy boy was to wield the stick in Robin Hood's gang, the unrecognized girl would be the woodland sprite for the ballet number. (I believe Mrs. Kershills taught this special dance, to the envy of all the rest of us. I know I signaled I had an errand "downstairs" several times one morning, just so I could see her teaching those steps!)

We wrote our own plays - there was one Health play, (we gave it uptown) I recall, and of course we made the posters and costumes. As the children volunteered what the characters should say, Miss Howlett wrote the words on the board. Thirty-five hands copied them into their red covered notebooks. After the play was written, the parts were assigned. Of course each had his part in his notebook in his own handwriting! That was how she did without duplicating machines.

Once we put a book into play form. The late Mrs. Robert Schoonmaker recalls: "Miss Howlett found a part for every child, no matter how slow or backward he might be. When the book "Arlo" was read in school, and it was decided to put it on in the spring, the author was contacted and her permission obtained. When the play was given and it was acclaimed an unusual success and greeted with much applause. As the room got quiet, it was announced that the author of Arlo was herself in the audience and she was called to come up on the stage. She expressed warm appreciation for the accurate and fine interpretation of her book and praised the astonished children for their splendid acting. It was a never-to-be forgotten night! And how wise of Miss Howlett to keep secret the presence of the author so the children would not be unduly nervous."

Parents and children remember her in-

genuity, like seating a boy who had no interest in cleanliness directly in front of the girl he had an attachment for with excellent results...Better breakfasts resulted perhaps from spelling based on possible breakfast menus! The thin who gained the most weight in a month received their selection of snaps of school events; however, the overweight were not so singled out. In fact, somehow we never learned their exact poundage!

The late Hugh Barton, whose children also went to Miss Howlett's room, recalled in a letter that it was usually the children of the foreign born who had leads in the Christmas plays...He says that "her school children made the highest grades in High School and were not the kind to contribute to teenage delinquency." The setting of life in South Amherst was also a factor...She encouraged a circus at the Barton Farm. "The participation of so many children was all part of the picture Cora Howlett created in their minds as the right way to have fun. The Warner boy trained a pair of Jersey calves to a yoke, and hitched them to a covered wagon for the drama "Winning of the West." Proceeds went to the Library. She kept a scrapbook of her pupils. Could you locate it? She had quite a collection. We have a picture of Bill launching a boat he built in manual training as he put it into the water at Hop Brook."

Her brother says she "voluntarily took up the job of local 4-H leader and I am sure she did not receive any compensation." As I recall, at a stated time the boys went to the work bench along the north wall and sawed and nailed; the girls took out their kimonos and bloomers they were making, and with Miss Howlett showing us how to baste, and stitch on her machine, to plane or hammer, the entire room progressed in 4-H. In summer, on the oil stove at the back of the room, she taught girls how to can and thus be better homemakers.

She tapped every resource. I clearly recall one time when my fruit-growing father came up to demonstrate to the big boys how to graft a branch to an apple tree in back of the school - I was watching from the pencil sharpener area, envying my three year old brother his freedom as he stood with "papa" outdoors in the early spring weather. Mr. Howe, a very genial man from North Amherst often came and talked to us. Mrs. Beaumont transported us into storybook land with her

marvelous stories (Billy Goat Gruff etc.) Once my father, a selectman, talked on government I suppose, for that was when I learned that old, old Mr. Jewett who had no children paid taxes too, for our education!

Sometimes one of us led a group at the back of the room in a geography lesson while she heard another class up front. (How could she hear me mispronounce "Arab", but she did!). But she gave time individually, too. There was the big boy whom she heard read aloud every day, at the back, and none of us dared to watch. But we were good because of pride as well. Once she told us, and I think her eyes were moist, how a visitor had said her school room was the only one in Amherst where a teacher could leave and the pupils were as busy and occupied as if she were still with them. She was a woman who led us out to see the dirigible passing over head - was it the Shenandoah? She would stretch recess on a good coasting day. Noon hours were long, and Elizabeth Rak and I all one spring walked down Station Road, discovering a humming bird's nest, a swarm of bees. Once the bell rang and we were late! She did not reprove.

Not too large a number, maybe 200 grown men and women, remember Miss Howlett, the orderliness, the fair play of her classroom. But they remember her creativity as well. She was a talented teacher. Indeed, she was "quite a gal!"



The primary rhythm class (with victrola carried out by the "big boys."). In front of the So. Amherst School. (Contributed by Mary Couch.) Some of the children identified are, l. to r.: , , Billy Atkins, Jim Schoonmaker with cornet, Mario Alfieri, Joe Couch with drum, Mable King (Bay Rd.) Frank Hawthorne, Ed Wentworth and Sabina Mosakewicz. The Stedman Allis house and the Gage (Munson) barn are in background.



South Amherst School today. 1972 (H.M.)



Sewing on a Betsy Ross flag; l. to r. Catharine Marco, Helen Couch, Lillian Thayer as Betsy Ross, Frances King, Mabel Smith. (H.C.)

Watching Mr. Atkins demonstrate grafting a tree at rear of school. Left to right: May King, Lillian Thayer, Miriam Thurston (minister's daughter), Helen Couch. (H.C.)



Sewing class, wearing dresses made in 4-H. Back row, l. to r.: Anna (or Katharine) Natrishon, Catharine Marco, Nellis Aucus, Dorothy Wentworth, Helen Couch, Julia Aucus; 2nd row: Vera Alfieri, Eva Alfieri, Mary Allis, Frances King, Helen Marco, Marjorie Atkins; front row: Jemima Kerr, Mary Matrishon, Esther Schoonmaker, Jennie Couch and Anne (or Helen) Mosakewic. (Contributed by Jennie Couch Lovell)



Stanley (Bud) Lombard and Jennie Couch, costumed for the grade school dramatization of the book by Bertha Browning Cobb entitled *Arlo*. (J.C. Lovell)



Jemima Kerr holding the doll used to demonstrate baby care. "That was when I decided I wanted to be a nurse." (J.K.F.)



The cast of the health play standing on the Amherst High School steps: l. to r., back row — Edward Slaby, Julia Aucus, Harold Smith, Eva Alfieri, Nellie Aucus, Libro Alfieri, Dorothy Wentworth, Reno Smith, Howard Atkins.

Second row: Anna Matrishon, Catharine Marco, Helen Little, Helen Couch, Stella Slaby, Frances King, and Bob Schoonmaker.

Front row: Preston Barton, Jack Schoonmaker, Mary Matrishon, Vera Alfieri, Majorie Atkins, Jemima Kerr, Mabel Smith and Carrie King.

Not in picture: Capt Fresh Air, Carl Holt; Col. Soap and Water, Clarence Landry.

1923 (Edith Pinnick)



School youngsters, May 30, 1925, identified as fully as possible by classmates 48 years later, contacted by Betty Barton. (Picture donated by Mary Couch.) Back row, l. to r.: Eliz. Rak (or Rock), Elinor Allis, Vera Alfieri, Gladys Main, Bob Schoonmaker, Edward Slaby (in sweater), Chas. Thayer, Albert Brace and Earl Allis.

Second row from back: Helen Marco, Mable King, Jennie Couch, Mary Matrishon, Marjorie Atkins, Mary Allis (dark hair), Jemima Kerr, Libro Alfieri, Geo. Hawthorne, Sherwin King and Raymond Growvenor.

Third row: ———, Wanda Capen (with barrette), Stanley Lombard (with vest) and Preston Barton.

Fourth row: Mary Marco, Mildred Niemczyk, Sally Matrishon, Jeannie Kerr, Anna Marco, Herbert Cook, Betty Barton, Geo. Corey, Dick Schoonmaker, Archie French, Julia Aucus.

Fifth row: Gertrude Whiting, Helen Capen, Mary Rak (with tie), Helen Mosakewicz, Eliz. Wilson, Edwin Wentworth, Frank Hawthorne, Bill Barton, (in sailor shirt), and Stella Slaby.

Sixth row: May Messier, Helen Holt (blonde), Josephine Matrishon, Chas. King (Bay Rd.), John Allis and Mario Alfieri in dark suits, Merton Marco, Rachel Messier and Peter Rak, at end.

Front: Bill Shumway, Ethel Messier, Bradford ———, ———, Bill Atkins, Billy and Mary Hosford, Barbara Tiffany, Helen Niemczyk, Jim Schoonmaker and Claron Cook.

The home of the Will Sandersons on West St. where teachers of So. Amherst school boarded for several years. Cousin Emma operated, for a period, a small fruit stand on the front lawn for Atkins fruit in the mid-20's. (Frank Koeber later owner.) 1972 (H.M.)



1927 Buick, with newly hatched chickens in boxes on back seat, Schoonmakers (E.S.P.)

Last S. Amherst Blacksmith Recalls Days When 'The Horse Was King'

July 14, 1960

By Marjorie Atkins Elliott

The reminiscences of Ernest A. Whitcomb of South Amherst bring nostalgic memories to those fortunate enough to remember the days when the horse was king and delighted younger readers with the interesting practices of the nearly lost art of the blacksmith.

Mr. Whitcomb, who purchased his present shop in 1929 from W.H. Atkins, still shoes an occasional pony or manufactures a bit of iron grillwork to order.

He recalls that in addition to nine sizes of horse shoes, the blacksmith stocked special shoes for lame feet or to accommodate a horse's corn or 'spreading feet.' These were called "bar shoes," he noted. Calk shoes were used on draft horses in winter.

In his shop, nailed to an overhead beam, was a still legible advertisement known throughout the country before we became a nation of mechanics. I copied down the words.

"Hansford Balsam of Myrrh for any Wound or Sore, Galls, Cuts, Bruises, Kicks, Puffs, Scratches, Thrush, etc." It must have been a powerful ointment.

Our gaze dropped down to the window on the north, barred like a bank. "Oh, that!" explained Mr. Whitcomb. "I had to put those bars on after a horse plunged half through. They stood here," and he showed the worn floor to the right of the doorway, "and I had to reinforce that north wall a couple of times because of the bad actors. But of course this is an old building."

How old was the building? Mother knew it had been moved to this spot from Bay Road years ago. The late Fred Adams had told her that. Furthermore, Charles Thayer of Bay road had confirmed it. This identical shop had originally been erected south of the dip on the mountain side of Bay road close to the present MacIntire greenhouse. A. Mr. Chapin had blacksmithed there, he said. Chas. R. Shaw was the one who had it moved north a mile and a half to the present location "on the Hunt lot" across from Win Shumway's. This occurred around 1900.

In a small directory published in 1869 by Storrs and McCloud, there are listed several blacksmiths in South Amherst. On Church street, now South East street, lived John Bliss.

Carl Dickinson writes this of John Bliss: "He was a blacksmith and had a small shop but as far as I can remember did no work but his own. I remember when he learned that I had decided to go west, he made a special trip down to the depot where I was agent, and advised me to stay on the job there. He said, 'Carl, you have the best job around here. You get ten dollars and a half a week, and you may starve if you go west.' But I went west anyway and have never regretted it, and so far have never missed a meal although I'll admit I did postpone a few once upon a time."

For over a decade, or until the shop was destroyed by fire in 1895, Mr. Rose was the blacksmith of the village. Clara Dwight living up at the green, can still hear in memory's ear the sound of

Daddy Rose's anvil, audible proof that he was at work. She describes him as small and rather stooped, but quick in movement and wit. People who stopped at the shop came away chuckling over some tale or remark of his. Carl Dickinson, once a boy in South Amherst, recalls "Daddy" once boasted, "My horse is full of ambition but ain't got the legs to carry it out." Daddy Rose wore a goatee which compensated for the small amount of hair on his head. Children were entertained by watching the goatee jerk up and down as he emphatically gave his opinion on some village question.

Cora Hopkins Marsh was one of the youngsters who stopped at the shop whenever she could. There was a horsetail switch that hung by the entrance, used to brush the flies from the standing animal. Sometimes she waved the switch for the owner of the horse being shod. Bert Shaw says that this switch was a standard part of every smithy, and remembers a lively incident when a dog made off with the object from the shop of Bert Dodge of Belchertown, with blacksmith and idlers in hot pursuit.

Back of the Rose blacksmith shop stood his home where his wife, Letty, proved she was as good a housekeeper as any in the village in spite of her degree from Mt. Holyoke college! More than one young girl learned sewing from her. Plants thrived at her windows, among them the Martha Washington geranium. Clara Dwight recalls that Mrs. Rose was proud of having known the poet William Cullen Bryant in person, having formerly lived in Cummington.

Some of the farmers and residents of South Amherst who depended on blacksmith Rose are described in a letter from Miss Dwight.

"To the north lived good old Deacon Tom Reed (at McLeod's). Farther on the Morells by whose name that property is still designated, although the former owners long ago moved to California. Deacon Henry Dickinson's family lived north of there, just across the Depot road. South of the blacksmith shop were the remains of Bela Kellogg's house. It had fallen into disrepair and the children of the late 1890's thought it should be haunted. Just below lived Emeline Elmer whose bay was very cantankerous and "hard bitted." Horace Douglas, his brother, lived there, too. Lyman Moody and his wife, "erect as a ramrod," lived on the brow of the hill. They drove a piano buggy. Ernest Smith was another citizen, famous for his Yankee twang and tales. There was Foster Meekins of Potwine lane who drove a roan horse; Aaron Merrick of West street, Will Joy of Middle street who had a dapple gray, Tim Dickinson who owned a tired old sorrel. Parnell Munson at the crest of Shay street sported a spanking span of chestnuts. Aunt Louisa Porter from the far reaches of Bay road (now Markert's) doubtless stopped at the blacksmith shop. She was easily identified by her customary black bonnet and cape.

But a fire put Daddy Rose out of business. Frank Reed, grandson of Deacon Tom Reed and, his sister, Margaret, of Groton, N.H., sent details of that fire. It was the responsibility of the Reed family to run over to the church and ring the church bell on the occasion of a fire, and this they did, and then tore down the hill to offer what

help they could. "The fire had caught in the roof of the house from a spark from the shop while Daddy Rose was at dinner. Men tried to chop out the burning area but to no avail. When the house was burning, men, women and even children helped carry things out of the house. Among the articles were Mrs. Rose's china dishes and other crockery. Daddy Rose came running out with his arms full of stove lids and pokers shouting, "Don't get excited, children! Don't get excited;" In his hurry he dropped the stove lids on the pile of china and still shouting ran back into the burning house to salvage more valuables.

Mr. Frank Ives had told us that when he moved to Mill Valley in 1899 there were oxen at Thurston's (now Stiles') and at Flavel Gaylord. Even then there were few blacksmiths who could shoe an ox, and he recalls the teams were generally taken to a shop on Main Street near the River for shoeing. An ox frame was always used. "They led the ox in and stantioned him. Then they put two board belts under him and chained him up. Using a stake they twisted the chain, shortening it until the belts lifted the ox enough to take his weight off his feet. Then they strapped each leg to a stake in the frame as they shod the animal to keep him from kicking." Sounds like a time and energy consuming operation.

Doubtless there was no insurance. Taking what possessions remained, the Roses moved away. Oddly, no one recalls where this man, once an integral part of the economy and zest of the village, next made his home, but he is still remembered with affection by all who knew him.

There had to be a smithy. And that was why the shop in which we stood had been moved to this location by Mr. Shaw, to provide central service for the villagers.

We looked around more closely. Mother commented on the age of the stove. Yes, it was old, said Mr. Whitcomb. It had been here when he took over and it was old then.

I asked about shoeing oxen. "Well," he said, "I never shod any here but I have done it. Two shoes to a foot. There used to be a "sling" at the rear of the shop, to support the animal while it was shod. When I worked on Pelham Road, I used to shoe oxen for Rufus Fitts. There was a man from Shutesbury, Lorell by name, who was the only one I ever saw who drove them like a team of horses, riding in a cart."

Mr. Ives further recounts that there was a man by the name of Sharkey who was an itinerant laborer here and in Connecticut. "He was up to the shop once when Gaylord took his cattle in for shoeing. When Sharkey saw how hard it was for the man to shoe those oxen of Gaylord's he pitched right in and did a job that made everybody stop and watch him. He was a crackerjack shoer - when he wasn't drunk."

Mother and I moved toward the north window of the dark interior. "This," said Mr. Whitcomb, "is an iron tire upsetter."

I thought I didn't understand him and repeated his words.

"Yes," he explained, "to crimp a tire, to shrink it to the wheel. When a man asked to have his tires cut he meant to upset it."

There was another tool lying there. It looked to me like a 4th of July whirligig rocket, only in iron. What was it? "A tire measurer, the circumference for a tire. In the corner of the shop rested an elm hub about 8½ inches in diameter. Beside it a dusty dump cart hub of elm and iron. That particular hub he had ordered for a customer who never claimed it. Cost \$12.00 and there it lay. A frozen liability.

On a hook at the left of the door hung a woman's hat of uncertain style and age. "That straw hat was left here maybe twenty years ago. I hung it there thinking the owner would claim it someday!" He laughed with us.

We asked about everything that caught out attention and always received a courteous answer. A sleigh in the back was his own, he said. He had bought it from a Joe Richardson in 1905. It was the right size for carrying a barrel of flour. He used to buy his flour by the barrel, in Amherst, and it would fit into this sleigh just right.

We stepped past a box of soft coal and toward the open door to say goodbye. Cars passed frequently. It was time to leave. An old nail keg was at the side, probably identical to the one that old Mr. Lyman Moody is reported to have sat upon from where he commented on the village scene, simultaneously employing both pipe and quid!

Once over the threshold the aura of the past would leave us. All those items inside the shop had struggled to communicate from an era that was definitely gone. But as long as the shop remains, with the horse shoes hanging from nails in the rafters, the floors still bearing marks of restless hoofs, fragments of shays and sleds in the rear, it will not be too difficult for us to imagine the work of a blacksmith back in the day when the horse was king.

Lyman Moody and his wife. (C.D.)



Bert Shaw, well known Belchertown and Leverett blacksmith and iron craftsman, at Sturbridge. In mid 50's. 1894-1973



[Article excerpted from July 1957 edition with list of blacksmiths, (recalled by Mrs. W.H. Atkins, Ernest Whitcomb and Bert Shaw) at smithy "on the Hunt lot" across from Win Shumway's:

About 1887 - J.W. Bethune, Myron Hicks, Mr. Murray

About 1910 - Tom Palmer (O'Neil and Simard)

About 1923 - Bill Zink (Pop Leetes)

1927 - Ernest Whitcomb

Other blacksmiths: "Daddy" Rose, smithy just north; Chapin, blacksmith at site on Bay Road, burned out 1895; John Bliss up So. East Street.]

An Amherst parade in 1909

Thomas Thurston and wife



(from an article by Mildred Dickinson; fall, 1972, Amherst Record)

... Mr. Truman Smith who lives in South Amherst tells me he knew the Thurstons very well. As a small boy he spent many days on his grandfather's farm which was just to the south of the Thurston farm and so he often visited the folks next door. He tells me it was essentially a dairy farm in those days. Mr. Thurston was a versatile man, not only a good farmer but an excellent stone cutter and layer. Probably many of the houses built at that time had their foundations carefully laid by Mr. Thurston. . . . (Mildred Dickinson)

SOUTH AMHERST MEN SERVING AS SELECTMEN IN AMHERST BETWEEN 1841-1953.

It is believed the following selectmen of Amherst came from South Amherst. (See F. Rand's *History of Amherst* for list without South Amherst designation.) Later selectmen served on a 5 (not 3) member board.

William Merrick, 1841
Salem Hammond, 1844
Waitstill Dickinson, 1845-49, 1873
Truman Nutting, 1850-51
William A. Dickinson, 1855
David Pomeroy, 1857
Flavel Gaylord, 1870-72
Allen P. Merrick, 1875-76
James E. Merrick, 1878-88
Edward E. Pomeroy, 1884, 1892
Parnell Munson, 1887-88
Salmon Wakefield, 1891-92
Daniel W. Dickinson, 1893-1906
Thomas S. Thurston, 1907-1910
William H. Smith, 1907-1911
William H. Atkins, 1912-1948
Fred Colby, 1948-53 (end of three member board)



Sitting in on their last official meeting, the former three Selectmen, Albert Parsons, Frederique Colby, and Chairman F. Civile Pray, were in good spirits last Friday morning. Mr. Parsons served on the board for 14 years, Mr. Colby for six years, and Mr. Pray for 20 years.
(1953), (Amherst Record)

Signatures of associates at Town Hall, Amherst, 1948.

Feb 19 1948
We hope this gift will help express
Our wishes for your happiness

Luggage trunk presented to me
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Parsons Selectman
Bud Jewett Police
Frank D. Webb School com
Alfred N. Tidlund Fire
George A. Cavanaugh Fire
William Bolish. A Labor
Bernard Hebert
John J. Trainor Police
Eleonore E. Dowd Nurse
L. Heland Dudley Sch. Spt.
Frances J. McKentuck Assessor
Harold E. Warner Fire
George S. Taylor
Vincent W. Tiedy
William Hawthorne
Arthur H. Warren Janitor
Bertram S. S. S. Water
Mitchell Jacoby Police
Laurora F. Russell
Mr. & Mrs. F. A. Colby Selectman
Francis E. Hart Police

From Elizabeth H. Hooker Trunk
Charles N. Dunning Clerk
Charles L. Sears Clerk
Civille Pray
E. Frances Pray
Clarence W. Eastman
Margaret G. Godek Clerk
Gertrude L. Fitzgerald Clerk
Jane Lammann Clerk
Melrose S. Paige
Charles H. Shaskin
James W. Tuff
John G. White
Lottie W. Warren
Helen Dawson
Nathan H. O'Brien Accountant
Henry J. Messer
W. C. Engelmann
J. A. Sherry
Stephen P. Puffer
George F. Leary
Chas. Kominski
Chester Potyrala
Chester Pelis
Bert Lovett
Edward Puffer
Steve Sullivan
Walter Jones
Luecke Hamilton
Truman Nutting
William A. Dickinson
David Pomeroy
Flavel Gaylord
Allen P. Merrick
James E. Merrick
Edward E. Pomeroy
Parnell Munson
Salmon Wakefield
Daniel W. Dickinson
Thomas S. Thurston
William H. Smith
William H. Atkins
Fred Colby



BAY ROAD-WEST STREET INTERSECTION

THE BUILDINGS ACROSS FROM IVES

12/72 P.T. Ives

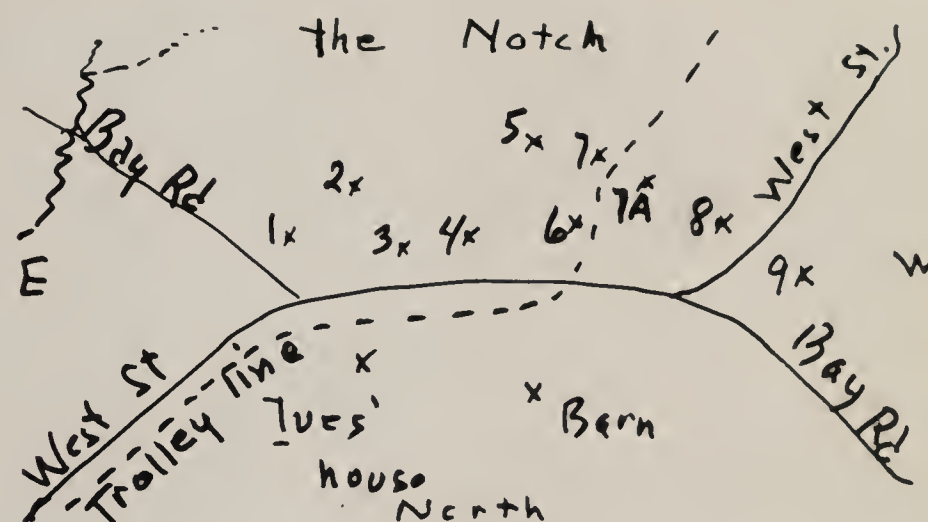
Facing south, Bay Road – West St. Intersection, 1972. (H.M.)
(Picture of No. 3 in the Johnny Appleseed trim on page .)

I will label the buildings as they run from east to west. (1) Open shed – facing west, (2) smaller open shed facing north, (3) a small born, which in the last few years of his “career” Ted Critchett turned into a cute apple sales room, its doors opening to display on them Johnny and Mrs. Appleseed, (4) small 5 room house, chiefly Critchett’s Office, and storage for small tools, and some apple boxes; lived in off and on by one man or another (one at a time), (5) for a few years, Hartwell’s small tobacco barn south from the other buildings, (6) Hartwell’s house, the Hartwell home for 4 generations, (7) Hartwell’s colonial barn, the size and age (1780+) of ours.

Of these, No. 4 is now boarded up at the windows, and used only for storage space; No. 5 collapsed and was removed 30 years ago, No. 6 and No. 7 were bought after E.L. Hartwell’s death (early 1950’s) by Walter Jones together with Hartwell’s 80 acres that stretched back southward along the east (and some west) side of the Trolley Line way up to the steepest part of the Range.

About 1920 Joe Gardner (“Le Jardiner”) originally bought about ½ acres from Hartwell west of the No. 6 and 7 and built (8) a small “fruit-stand store” on it, and that tiny structure grew and grew as its ownership went to Gardner to Mathes to Moreau to Anderson.

Jones sold No. 6 and No. 7 + 2.8 acres (of the 80 acres) to Edward Land who did a really fine job in rebuilding the inside of the house to take it from a poor mid-century to a very good mid-20th century condition.



The rest of the 80 acres Jones sold (at a clear and handsome profit) to Seymour Epstein who built a lovely modern house up in the woods 150 meters (or more) south from Bay Road (across Plum Brook.) He also built a large dam across the brook to create a 6 acre lake in what had been Hartwell’s Meadow (where I spent some of the happiest fishing hours of my boyhood). Ed Land stayed here more than 10 years then sold No. 6 and No. 7 to Sam Anderson who owned No. 8 and Sam moved his family into No. 6. A very few years later his “auto crazy” boys overheated one of their cars when it was parked inside No. 7 and we had a spectacular 1 a.m. barn burning.

Then Sam filled in the deep cut which the trolley line made between No. 7 and No. 8 curving south down to the Meadow (and then up to the Mountain) and built on the fill a sizable story building which stands there now – No. 7A I would call it – half way between the original site of the No. 7 and present No. 8, a large sprawling thing.

After Howard got the green light for Hampshire Village, Sam Anderson sold out to him, thus closing the gap between the eastern half and the western half of the land and bldgs. Howard had bought from Critchett. Now Howard has closed up the business in No. 7A and No. 8, while expanding his own contribution, No. 9, originally a lovely big fruit store into store and offices.

I know of no pictures of the original Plum Brook and Bay Road Bridge and Watering Place (for the stage coaches). When the new Bay Road went in about 1948, the old scene was completely destroyed. The built up road itself goes right over the Watering Place.

Fruit Bowl stand, (No. 9), prior to enlargement in 1972, pumpkins announcing the harvest season. (R.W.A.)





Aerial Map of South Amherst, 1971

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Picture Credits

To assist future research, the addresses as well as names are given of those who lent pictures or maps of former days in South Amherst. Credit is not generally given for Atkins or Elliott snapshots unless they are of major events. Most newspaper photos are from the *Amherst Journal*, now *Amherst Record*. In a few cases, the source is unknown. Any reader willing to lend pictures for subsequent editors may contact the curator, Winifred Sayer, of the Jones Library, Amherst, Massachusetts.

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U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, No. DPB 4LL 128 (Aerial map, 148)
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